



10/28/24

Oh my goodness! The message on Sunday was packed full of life transforming truths! I pray that you and I will flee our youthful passions like we would run from a wasp buzzing around our head, and pursue the Lord like we would run after a baby in a stroller rolling down a hill. May we not allow Satan to toy with our hearts... as Tim said, "We are the sandbox for Satan and he's playing with our hearts to try to make us ineffective for the Lord and ruin our worship." But Jesus is running to the victor's circle and Satan cannot stop Him. We stand with Jesus!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

2 Timothy 2:14-21

2 Timothy 2:22 says, "So... flee youthful passions... and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace." What insights do vs. 14-21 give me about fleeing youthful passions and pursuing Jesus? Vs. 14-18 give me some DO'S and DON'TS. And vs. 19-21 give me a picture of what it looks like.

Vs. 14 ~ DON'T quarrel about words. Why? It ruins the hearers (not to mention the ones who are quarreling). It ruins people because fighting over words doesn't model the character of Jesus. It models the character of those who oppose Him. That will confuse those who hear the fighting, especially if the ones who are fighting are leaders in the church. The listeners may get caught up in the arguments. They may conclude that fighting is good and then get stuck taking sides... when what God wants is unity among His people. Quarrels incite division.

Vs. 15 ~ DO seek to present myself to God as one approved. First, I'm seeking to present myself to GOD, doing what HE approves of... not seeking to present myself to people, doing what will make them approve of me. People are fickle. God is constant.

What is pleasing to God? Wholeheartedly working for His honor and glory. I do that by rightly handling His word of truth. I have to KNOW His word in order to handle it well. And that's just the start. I have to know it and I have to apply it to my life. I seek to know His word for TRANSFORMATION, not just INFORMATION. It's when I'm seeking to please God through

obedience to His word that I will have no need to be ashamed, no matter what anyone else thinks of me. It is God's opinion that matters.

Vs. 16-18 ~ DO avoid irreverent babble. Avoid words that are empty, crossing the line into things that have nothing to do with truth, that have no eternal value. Why? It only leads to ungodliness on top of ungodliness... things that stand against the heart of God.

This kind of talk spreads like gangrene. Why? It feeds the flesh and the flesh cannot be satisfied. It's like when I hear gossip. Part of me is drawn into hearing it. I don't even understand the craving. But it spreads like gangrene and takes on a life of its own. It's destructive. I have to be on guard so that I don't get caught into it... but hold to the word of truth instead. There is so much more freedom and joy in holding to the word of truth, but my flesh tells me that I'll enjoy the gossip more. It's a lie. It may not look destructive in the moment, but the evil will show itself eventually... once the damage is already done.

If it's so destructive, why would people get caught up into irreverent babble? The WHY is my flesh... it lures me and entices me to sin. The HOW is by swerving from the truth. Instead of being wholly committed to the word and staying alert so that I don't get caught up into lies, I let my flesh distort just a little piece of the word... and then slowly draw me away from the Lord.

Paul mentioned Hymenaeus and Philetus. They swerved from the truth. They said that the resurrection had already taken place, that we were living in the millennium. That had to freak people out! If that was true, why was there still sin? Why wasn't Jesus sitting on the throne in Jerusalem? Were God's promises just an idea? It was just a cruel statement, NOT BASED IN TRUTH! Raising unbiblical arguments and statements upsets the faith of some... those who are not grounded in the word, who don't know the truth of what scripture says. The way I guard myself from letting my faith be shaken is by staying close to God and His word... stay close to the truth so that I recognize the lie, and then don't get caught up in the battle. Stand on truth. Speak the truth. Don't fight about it.

Vs. 19 ~ This is what I will find when I stay true to God's word and don't swerve from the truth... I will find confidence in the absolute truth that God's firm foundation stands. His foundation is FIRM... immovable. Why? Because Jesus Christ is my firm foundation. He is immovable. I am NOT my foundation. He is. My foundation, Jesus Christ, has this seal that cannot be broken, "The Lord KNOWS those who are His." The Greek word for "know" means, "up close and personal knowledge by experience." Jesus KNOWS me personally because He has made me His own. That is sealed and absolute.

His firm foundation also bears this seal, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." Ahhhhhh... Yes, I get to celebrate that I belong to Him, but don't think it stops there. Jesus died to set me free from sin... part of the evidence that I belong to Jesus and that He is my firm foundation is that I am repelled by sin... that I run the other direction. I no longer see sin as something that is good, but as something that Jesus had to die for, something

that I run from. I run FROM sin and I run TO Jesus.

Vs. 20-21 ~ Paul has just spoken of our firm foundation, the foundation of Jesus Christ. He's the foundation of what? A great house... the house of God. In every house there are vessels used to make the house run. It's not just an empty house. Some of the vessels are made of gold and silver and some are made of wood and clay. Some are for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

This is interesting... In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul speaks about what we build on our foundation, Jesus Christ. He says we can build gold, silver, and precious stones... or wood, hay, and stubble. Our house goes through fire, and only what isn't burned up by fire remains. What happens to wood in a fire? It becomes ash... but the gold remains. Here in this passage, it talks about being a vessel for honorable use or for dishonorable use. The vessels for honorable use survive the testing of fire. Those for dishonorable use don't. Yikes. It's not just a decision like, "6 of 1, half a dozen of the other." The choice impacts my whole life!

Who doesn't want to be a vessel for honorable use??? Everyone wants to be useful. The Master of the house determines what's valuable. In God's house, He determines what's honorable and dishonorable. He WANTS me to be a vessel for honorable use, but He won't force me.

If I want to be His vessel for honorable use, I will have cleansed myself from the dishonorable, having been set apart... sanctified by Him... useful to Him... ready to do what pleases Him.

So... as a set apart, sanctified, honorable vessel for the Lord, flee youthful (dishonorable) passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace so that I can please my Master who has sealed me and made me His own. Let me never forget whose house I'm in and how I got there. I get to live with God forever because Jesus Christ died for my dishonorable sins and set me free. Lord, I WANT to be used for Your honor and glory.