



2/25/26

*2 Timothy 2:14-26 ~*

*This is the second letter we have that Paul wrote to Timothy. It's also the last letter he ever wrote. He was executed for his faith soon after he finished this letter. He had said in his letter to the Philippians, "My desire is to depart and be with Jesus... for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Here in his final letter, he said in 2 Timothy 4:18, "The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." And truly, the Lord did.*

*But before the Lord took Paul home, he wrote this letter to Timothy to remind him of everything he could in leading the church, the people of God. In this part of the letter, he talked about keeping our focus on what really matters, being an honorable vessel for the Lord, and pursuing the Lord while also patiently drawing others to Him.*

*Vs. 14-19 ~ Focus on what really matters.*

*Paul reminded Timothy to remind the body of Christ to pursue their relationship with the Lord and not get caught up in fighting over words. He said to "solemnly charge them BEFORE GOD" not to fight about words. Truly, fighting about words, even the word of God, is often born from arrogance. Even if we disagree, we need to do it humbly and with the goal of "maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Otherwise, we are not a help to the people of God or the things of God. We are a hindrance. How awful to think that winning a fight over words and preferences is more important than the hearts of God's people.*

*This does NOT mean we put people's feelings over GOD'S word. Paul clearly states next that Timothy needs to be diligent in presenting himself to God as one who is proved to be genuine before Him. How does he do that? By "accurately handling the word of truth." Don't fight about the words, but also... don't COMPROMISE God's word! There is never shame before God in being faithful to His word.*

*What are words to NOT fight over? Worldly, ungodly, disrespectful to God empty words that*

*only cause pain to the church. These words spread like gangrene. Why? Our flesh, that part of us that is hostile to God, FEEDS on empty, ungodly words. Avoid them. People who don't avoid this kind of talk are like Hymenaeus and Philetus. They go away from the truth and get caught up in controversial talk that is not in line with God's word. This kind of arguing overthrows the faith of some people. That is AWFUL!!! Why put my OPINIONS as higher importance than the FAITH of believers??? THAT IS NOT WHAT GOD WANTS.*

*But let me not be misguided and let me not fear. No matter what people say, "God's firm foundation stands..." He will build His church, and the gates of hell will NOT prevail against it. The Lord KNOWS those who belong to Him, and we can know that we belong to Him when we confess Jesus as Lord and turn away from the things that turn away from Him. Let me not cherish sin in my heart but let me cherish the Lord and His word and His people.*

*Vs. 20-21 ~ Be a willing vessel for honorable use to the Master.*

*"Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable."*

*Paul talked about this similarly in 1 Corinthians 3. The church is the great house. Jesus is the foundation of the house. The Father is the Master of the house. Our goal is to be used by Him for what honors Him. In 2 Corinthians it says we either build on our foundation what is dishonorable... wood, hay, and stubble... things that would burn up in a fire. Or we build things that are honorable on the foundation... gold, silver, and precious stones... things that remain if there is a fire.*

*We cleanse ourselves from the dishonorable by seeking to please our Master and not ourselves. We cleanse ourselves by walking in faith and not in hostility to Him. And when we do, we become more effective for His kingdom, set apart as holy before Him... making an impact with ETERNAL value that can't be burned up. This is not about our salvation. That's secure. But why would we want to live in a house, or be part of a house while continuing to work against that house? There is no joy or peace in that. O Lord, please help me to recognize when I am not being used for Your honor. Help me to turn from what dishonors You, and seek to honor You.*

*Vs. 22-26 ~ Pursue the Lord and draw others to Him as well.*

*So... in order to be used for my Master's honor and NOT dishonor, flee... run away from... escape... immature desires that don't align with God's word. Nothing good comes from them.*

*Instead... run after, pursue, chase... righteousness (love what God loves and hate what He hates), faith (that which grows my confidence in the Lord), sacrificial love (as He loves me), and peace (stillness before God) along with others who are genuinely doing the same. Why? We need that encouragement and support from each other. God designed us to be in relationship with others to help each other. Trying to pursue the Lord while hanging out with people who don't will do a lot more to drag us down than pull them up.*

*Paul says again, "Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies... they breed quarrels." For him to repeat this so many times in both of his letters to Timothy is a big deal. God wants unity. Fighting and unity cannot coexist. Fighting over things that have nothing to do with the things of God is in direct opposition to God's design for His kids. I pray that I won't take this lightly.*

*A true devoted servant of Jesus will not be divisive or harsh. Instead, we will be kind and gentle to everyone even if they're not kind and gentle toward us. We'll be able to teach... by example. People learn far more from what we do than what we say. We'll be patient with the evil we see all around us with the same kind of patience Jesus had when He walked this earth... with the same kind of patience He has now as He waits to come and bring us home. When someone opposes us, we will speak the truth to them with that same patience.*

*Correcting someone who opposes me is hard! I can either avoid the conflict altogether, not considering that speaking the truth might actually help. Or I can come at them with a hammer because "how dare they talk to me like that!" But I know from Romans 2:4 that it's God's kindness that brings me to repentance. So maybe my truthful, loving, patient kindness will help bring someone else to repentance.*

*The prayer is that God would grant them repentance, a turning from their sin and embracing the knowledge of the truth. It is the truth that wakes a person up and helps that person escape from Satan's snare... It is the truth that helps a person realize that Satan is not there to help but to trap us into doing his evil desires.*

*My call is to recognize what really matters... Jesus. And if I realize that Jesus is who really matters, I will want to be a vessel used FOR His honor and glory, and not against Him. And if I'm recognizing the beauty of being with Him, I won't just pursue Him. I'll also seek to help point others to Him as well. O Lord, rather than getting caught up in all the things that have no lasting value, I pray that I will be caught up in You and in Your word. Amen.*