

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Timothy 2:14-21

QUESTION 1

Begin this time by discussing our scripture of the week: **2 Timothy 2:14-21 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." ²⁰ In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. ²¹ Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.** Each member of the group, please share one thing that stands out to you from the scripture.

QUESTION 2

I find the first phrase in verse 14 enlightening and interesting. **2 Timothy 2:14 Keep reminding God's people of these things.** This phrase reminds me that God's people need to be continually reminded of the essential elements of our faith. As a pastor, the phrase reminds me that I need to continually remind God's people of some of the most important things about faith in Christ. And when I examine my own heart, I realize there are things I need to be reminded of. What is one of the timeless truths of God's word that you need to be regularly reminded of? Tell the story of a time when God reminded you of something that you already knew, but you desperately needed that reminder.

QUESTION 3

For this question, we will focus on verse 15: Let's take a moment to look at it again. **2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.** This verse reminds Timothy of some essential truths about serving God. As a group, take a moment to process the relationship between approval and shame, and then, if possible, apply that discussion to this verse. One of the sub-themes of the early chapters of 2 Timothy is shame. Why do you think Paul has focused on shame or being ashamed?

QUESTION 4

After focusing on some who have departed, the faith, Paul says this: ¹⁹ **Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."** Paul is claiming that God's foundation has an inscription with two separate phrases. Please take a moment to identify each phrase, discuss what they mean independently, and then discuss how they work together. When I read the phrase 'turn away from wickedness,' I interpret it to mean that we are to turn from self-centeredness to Christ-centered living. Is it your goal to turn from a self-centered to a Christ-centered perspective? How are you progressing on that journey?

QUESTION 5

Verses 20 and 21 are fascinating. ²⁰ **In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.** ²¹ **Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.** In these two verses, Paul uses the analogy of a large house to explain a principle about God's house and God's people. In a large house, there are expensive, special items with a special purpose and very common everyday items. Let's look at these verses in the New Living Translation: **2 Timothy 2:20-21 In a wealthy home, some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use.** ²¹ **If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.** Take some time as a group to reflect on and process these verses. What do you think Paul is trying to say? How do these verses suggest that people receive a special purpose in God's kingdom? How important is it for you to be useful and prepared to do the good work God calls you to do?