Sunday Morning in the Word



2 Timothy 2:20-26

November 4, 2018



A Dedicated Soldier

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the commanding officer.

2 Timothy 2:3–4

A Disciplined Athlete

Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

2 Timothy 2:5

A Determined Farmer

The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to get a share of the crops.

2 Timothy 2:6

An Unashamed Worker

Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

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

2 Timothy 2:20

So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:21

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"to cleanse thoroughly, to purge"

2 Timothy 2:21

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2 Timothy 2:21

A Clean Vessel (salvation)

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8–10

A Clean Vessel (service)

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ**Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8–10

Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

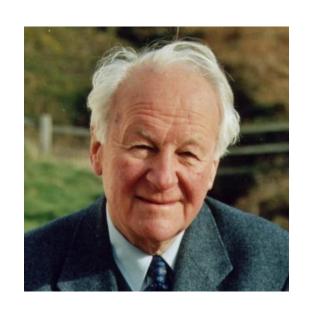
2 Timothy 2:22

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2 Timothy 2:22

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2 Timothy 2:22



John Stott

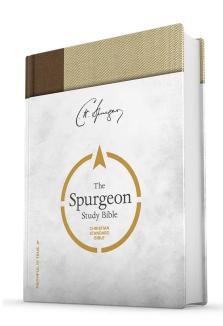
"This is not to be understood exclusively as a reference to sexual lust, but to 'self-assertion as well as self-indulgence', to selfish ambition, headstrong obstinacy, arrogance and indeed all the 'wayward impulses of youth."

*words in red from the New English Bible How do we deal with the temptations of our sinful flesh vs. the temptations of the Devil?



"Flee from youthful passions . . ."

"Run away from them. It is no use contending with them. Fight with the devil. Resist the devil and make him flee, but never fight with the flesh. Run away from that. The only way to avoid the lust of the flesh is to stay out of its way. If you subject yourself to carnal temptations and fleshly lust, remember it is almost certain that you will be overcome by them."



(Charles Spurgeon)

Run away from infantile indulgence. Run after mature righteousness—faith, love, peace—joining those who are in honest and serious prayer before God.

2 Timothy 2:22

The Message

But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, because you know that they breed quarrels. The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient,

2 Timothy 2:23–24

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2 Timothy 2:23–24

Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to fight about words. This is useless and leads to the ruin of those who listen.

2 Timothy 2:14

Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness,

2 Timothy 2:16



At the end of the day, the ONLY thing worth fighting for is the gospel! The Word of God! The faith once delivered to the saints!

This is where we must take our stand!

The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to EVERYONE, able to teach, and patient,

2 Timothy 2:24

The Lord's Servant (Christ-like in character, competent in God's Word)

The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient,

2 Timothy 2:24

instructing his opponents with gentleness.

Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:25

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Then they may come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:26

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

Ephesians 2:1–3

In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:9–10a

instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:25



Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash."





"Others can't tell by looking. We learn how to mask our fallen nature with religious ritual, good deeds, and clever speech. We know how to conceal our sinful desires and shroud our selfish motivations. Only you and the Lord know what's really inside you."

(Chuck Swindoll)



■ Does the Spirit of Jesus Christ live within you or have you never trusted Him as your Savior?



■ Are you a servant of righteousness or is there poison oozing from your life?



■ Does what you believe square with the Scriptures or do you simply parrot what you hear in church or among Christian friends?



Are you set aside for the Lord's special use or do you spend most of your time pleasing yourself or chasing self-gratification?



Are you a quarrelsome person, engaging in foolish disputes OR are you, as the Lord's servant, sharing God's word in Christlike gentleness and patience?



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1 Peter 3:15-16a

but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 16 Yet do this with **gentleness** and **respect**.