

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER – “Be Strong in Grace; Approved and Disapproved Workers!”

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Outline of 2 Timothy

Key Themes

- I. **Suffering is part of the Christian experience** (1:8, 12; 2:3, 9; 3:11–12; 4:5, 14–18).
- II. **The Christian response to suffering is steady faith by God’s power** (1:8; 2:1, 11–13; 4:1–8).
- III. **The gospel is the basis for the Christian’s endurance** (1:9–11; 2:8–10).
- IV. **The Scriptures have power to save and to preserve** (2:15; 3:15–17; 4:1–2).
- V. **True believers will continue in the faith. Failure to do so proves one is not truly converted** (2:11–13, 19; 3:14; 4:7, 10).
- VI. **False teaching is deadly and must be dealt with firmly** (2:16–18, 23–26; 3:1–9; 4:3–5).

2 Timothy – Paul’s Swan Song – His Last Will and Testament – Filled with Emotion – Written from a cold, dark dungeon, awaiting his execution.

Timeline: Ref. *The Life & Epistles of St. Paul* – W.J. Conybeare & J.S. Howson

61–63 AD – Paul comes to Rome, will be held in house, prisoner about two years, tried, acquitted, but his record was marked
64AD, July 19 – Nero sets fire to Rome and blames Christians; Mood against Christians begins to radically change; great moral decline in Roman Empire!

64–68 AD – Paul ministers in Spain (probably), Returns to Ephesus (66AD), Crete (leaves Titus there), to Macedonia, away from Rome where much persecution, many Christians executed (Caesar worship). Paul writes 1st Timothy and Titus.

67–68 AD – Likely in mid-winter Paul will be arrested in Nicopolos, Greece and sent to Rome, imprisoned in the Mamartine dungeon, writes 2nd Timothy.

68 AD – Probably in summer, Paul will again be tried, sent for execution and beheaded.

Author, Date, and Recipient: - Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy during his second imprisonment in Rome, shortly before his death. This imprisonment was after the one recorded in Acts 28. He probably wrote it in A.D. 67–68, though some would place it as late as 68.

Theme: - Paul gives Timothy a bold, clear call to continue in the gospel despite suffering.

Purpose: - Several people have abandoned Paul while he has been in prison, and several others are away on assignments (1:15; 4:9–12). In such a time, Paul’s memories of Timothy’s sincerity and devotion are especially touching (1:3–5). Paul thinks he will die soon (4:6–8), so he writes this final message to Timothy. Paul urges Timothy to stand firm and asks him to come for one final visit before Paul is executed.

Though Paul’s death is near, he does not know just when it will come. Paul also asks Timothy to bring his books and parchments, so that he can keep studying and writing until the end.

Second Timothy is very personal. It is a final letter to a close friend and coworker. Paul encourages Timothy to continue in faithfulness and offers his own life as an example for Timothy to follow. What he calls on Timothy to do, he himself has done already

CAN IT HAPPEN TODAY? THROUGH YOU? THROUGH ME?

A man named Edward Kimball had a burden for one of his Sunday School students to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. He went to see him at the shoe store where he worked and he led him to Christ in that shoe store. The young man’s name was **Dwight L. Moody** and he went on to become an evangelist whose ministry touched two continents. While preaching in the British Isles, Moody spoke in a small chapel, pastored by **F.B. Myer**. In his sermon, Moody told an emotionally charged story of a Chicago Sunday School, whom he knew, who personally went to every student in his class and won them to Christ. The message changed F.B. Myer’s entire ministry, inspiring him to become an evangelist. Over the years, F.B. Myer came to America several times to preach. Once in Northfield Massachusetts, a confused young preacher, sitting in the back row, heard Myer say, “If you are not willing to give everything to God, are you willing to be made willing?” That remark led **J. Wilbur Chapman** to accept the call of God on his life. Chapman went on to become one of the most effective evangelists of his time. A volunteer in Chapman’s ministry by the name of **Billy Sunday**, helped Chapman set up his crusades and learned to preach by watching him. Sunday eventually took over Chapman’s ministry, becoming one of the most effective evangelists of the 20th century. In the great arenas of the nation, Billy Sunday’s preaching’s turned thousands to Christ. Inspired by 1924, Billy Sunday’s crusade in Charlotte, North Carolina inspired a committee of Christians committed themselves to reaching their own city for Christ. They invited **Mordecai Ham** to hold a series of evangelistic meetings in 1932. A lanky, sixteen year old, sat in the huge crowd one evening, spellbound by the message of the white haired preacher, who seemed to be shouting and waving his long finger at him. Night after night the youth attended and finally went forward and gave his life to Christ. That teenager’s name was **Billy Graham**, who has doubtlessly communicated the gospel of Jesus Christ to more people than anyone else in the history of the world. Remember how this sequence of events started. A nobody, named Edward Kimball’s concern for one of his students visited him at the shoe store. In doing that Kimball changed the world by millions upon millions that have been affected by his decision to go to the shoe store. And millions more will continue to feel that impact. Can anything like that happened today? A little postscript to that story is that when Billy Graham first got started, one night only one person responded from the small crowd. That one person was **Warren Wiersbe!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

A Good Soldier of Christ Jesus

2Ti 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong (not something you can gain yourself, but be strengthened) *in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

2Ti 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit (deposit) *these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

2Ti 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2Ti 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

2Ti 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

v. 1 Be strong: This was an important encouragement, one of the twenty-five times Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong and endure in his work in Ephesus Paul knew that Timothy would need strength and endurance to fulfill the calling God gave him. God is always there to give us strength; *He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might, He increases strength . . . those that wait on the LORD shall renew their strength (Isa 40:29-30).* However, we must *receive* this strength, therefore Paul had to encourage Timothy to **be strong**. Paul told Timothy a specific way to be strong -- ***Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*** This strength in grace is essential for a strong Christian life.

v. 2 The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses: Paul reminded Timothy of the body of truth that he had heard from the Apostle in the presence of many others. Certainly, Timothy heard many Bible studies from Paul, and shared much time with the Apostle in personal discipleship. ***Commit these to faithful men:*** God gave ministry to Timothy, not for him to *keep*, but for him to pass on to others. An essential part of his work as a pastor was to pour into others what God had committed to him. A pastor should always seek to spread ministry about to others, and to train others to do the work of the ministry. Timothy was to teach the simple Apostolic doctrine *and example (the things that you have heard from me)*. Timothy didn't need to find smart men, popular men, strong men, easy men, perfect men, or good-looking men; Paul told him to look for ***faithful men. Who will be able to teach others also:*** This job of training leaders was so important that it could not be restricted to Timothy alone. Those whom he had trained must also be given the job to ***teach others also***, who had demonstrated their capability previously.

v. 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. : This was not a suggestion from Paul to Timothy; ***must*** carries the sense of a requirement or a command. There was something that Timothy had to do, and Paul would tell him to do it, to take the attitude of soldier who *expects to endure hardship* for their cause. No ***good soldierer*** - ever gave up simply because some hardship came to them. Similarly, if a believer is not willing to endure hardship, they will never accomplish much for Jesus Christ. They will give up as soon as something hard is required of them; they cannot fulfill Jesus' call: *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (Mat 16:24)*

v. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life: Timothy must take the attitude of a soldier, who willingly detaches himself from the things of civilian life, giving up many things. If a soldier is not willing to give up these things, he is not a soldier at all. The Roman soldiers were well known not to be permitted to engage in husbandry, merchandise, mechanical employments, or any thing that might be inconsistent with their calling. ***That he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier:*** If Timothy did not endure hardship, putting away the things that entangled him in the affairs of this life, he would not be pleasing to his Commanding Officer.

v. 5 If anyone competes in athletics: Paul often drew upon the world of athletics for illustrations of the Christian life, mentioning track and field, boxing, and wrestling. ***He is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules:*** An athlete can't make up the rules as he pleases; he must compete ***according to the rules*** if he wants to receive the crown. A believer must not make up our own rules for our Christian life.

v. 1 Be strong in the grace . . . in teaching the true Gospel, that people are saved by His grace and not on the basis of works! God gives the power of His Holy Spirit to those who faithfully stand! Be strong in the undeserved ability to stay faithful to God in any situation, that gracious ability to be faithful, even in a surrounding of apostasy.

v. 2 It's good to understand the Word yourself. It's better to know it better and pass it on to faithful, not talented, men who will teach it to others. Timothy, commit, deposit, the Word that he had often heard to other faithful men, who will be able to teach others (successful discipling them). How much of the Word do you understand well enough to pass it on to others?

vs. 3-4 Comparing ministry to warfare. Endurance and hardship is required! Quitting is not an option! You've got to endure! Nothing is to come before the context of the battle. That's just as true in the ministry! Timothy, you (as we!) are a soldier. Your allegiance is to Jesus Christ. Don't get involved or entangled with the worldly things. Love not the world or the things that are in the world. Remain in that spiritual perspective.

v. 5 The comparison to athletics is made. Every athletic expression is bound by rules. I've not only got to win to be crowned, but I must abide by the rules, by our rule book the Holy Bible!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Ti 2:6 *The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.*

2Ti 2:7 *Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.*

2Ti 2:8 *Remember* (you must constantly be remembering) *that* (this word, “that” has been added by the translators) *Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised* (out) *from the dead according to my gospel,*

2Ti 2:9 *for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer* (malefactor), *even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.*

(Stavropol, Russia – Stalin banned all Bible in 1930’s: Voltaire saying within 100 years of his death no more Bibles)

v. 6 *The hard-working farmer:* In calling Timothy to have the attitude of a farmer, Paul emphasized the fact that farmers are **hard-working**. Likewise, all who serve the Lord should be **hard-working**. There is nothing glamorous about the work a farmer does. It is often tedious, boring, and unexciting. The nation’s best farmer really isn’t a celebrity. But he must work hard just the same. **Hard-working:** Paul knew the value of hard work. He could say, comparing himself with the other apostles, *I labored more abundantly than they all* (**1Co 15:10**). Paul wasn’t just called, he wasn’t just blessed, he wasn’t just anointed; Paul also worked hard. And his ministry would have been far less than it was if he had *not* worked hard. Wise people know that you often get out of things according to the measure you put into them. **Must be the first to partake of the crops:** When Timothy had spiritual food to give to the congregation, he must eat of it first. If he isn’t being fed from the Word of God, he can’t really feed others.

v. 7 *Consider what I say:* Paul gives three illustrations of the Christian life - a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer. Each of these three occupations need great perseverance to succeed. The soldier who stops fighting before the battle is finished will never see victory. The athlete who stops running before the race is over will never win the race. The farmer who stops working before the harvest is complete will never see the fruit of his crops. **May the Lord give you understanding in all things:** Timothy was here instructed to see the importance of perseverance, and to receive **understanding** from the Lord in all these things.

v. 8 *Remember:* Paul gave this warning because Timothy needed to be reminded to keep this in the forefront of his message. **Jesus Christ, of the seed of David:** Timothy needed to keep the fact that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel - *the seed of David* - in the forefront of his preaching. **Who was raised from the dead:** This is the great fact, the great credential of the authenticity of Jesus Christ - His resurrection from the dead. Jesus was the first one ever resurrected. Others, such as Jesus’ friend Lazarus, had been resuscitated, but only Jesus had been resurrected - raised to a new order of life, with a new body, which though based on the old, was still new and fitted for the glories of eternal life. **Of the seed of David:** This statement means that Jesus was fully man; **raised from the dead** means Jesus was fully God. For Paul, it was essential that Timothy remember and teach the truth about who Jesus was. **According to my gospel** (good news): The good news was about a real relationship with God through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

v. 9 *For which I suffer:* This gospel did not bring Paul a life of glamour and ease. It brought him a life full of adventure and challenge, and a life also marked by suffering. About this time Nero reportedly set fire to Rome and blamed the Christians for it and began to persecute them mercilessly. **To the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained:** Although Paul was chained at the very moment he wrote this, he understood that they could chain him but they could never chain **the word of God**. The Bible has been attacked more than any other book through history. It has been burned, banned, mocked, twisted, and ignored - but the word of God still stands forever. (**Isa 40:8**). **The Word of God is not chained!** No government, no religious authorities, no skeptics, no scientists, no philosophers, or no book burners have ever been able to stop the work of the Word of God. Yet, if there is any sense in which the Word is bound, it is bound when it is abandoned by its very friends.

v. 6 Farming is hard, hard, work. The farmer must first be hardworking! Much of ministry, like that of a soldier, an athlete, a farmer, is just hard, hard work! Also patience, much patience is required! There’s no glory for it! Most of the work is done outside of anyone knowing about it.

v. 7 God is faithful give us understanding in all these things, and He will be faithful to give us the grace to be strong. God gives this and we must receive it.

v. 8 Must have been a departure from the fact that Jesus, the seed of David, the Messiah, and Jesus’ resurrection, which, dying on a cross like a common criminal, He actually died as a sinless man out of love and self-sacrifice to bear the guilt of our sin. His death on the cross was the payment but the resurrection was the receipt, showing the payment was received as perfect before God the Father. We must remember the resurrection is the heart of the gospel!

v. 9 Everywhere you look in life, accomplishment and reward is preceded by hard, hard, work. It’s no different in the ministry! Do you think it’s extraordinary that faithfulness and success in the ministry must be preceded by hard, hard, work? Even if they’ve chained me, but they will not be able to chain the gospel! It can’t be stopped! The gospel will move forward!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Ti 2:10 *Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect (the Jews), that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

2Ti 2:11 *This is a faithful saying: For if (because, since, aorist past tense) we died with (for us and as us, in place of us!) Him, We shall also (future tense, eternity) live with Him.*

2Ti 2:12 *If we endure (there is an enduring tied to our belief in Christ), We shall also reign with Him (through eternity!). If we deny (deny and continually deny) Him, He also will deny us.*

2Ti 2:13 *If we are faithless (contrast to faithful, makes a mistake, but repents later – Abraham, Peter), He remains faithful: He cannot deny Himself.*

A Worker Approved by God
2Ti 2:14 *Remind (present imperative, remind and continue to remind!) them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.*

v. 10 *Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect:* Paul said that he endures all things for the sake of God. Yet Paul knew that his love for God could reliably be measured by his love for God’s people. *That they may obtain the salvation:* Paul’s life was not spent merely in getting people rescued in Jesus, but also in seeing them grow and become complete in their relationship with Him. The idea of *eternal glory* is hard to comprehend. *Eternal glory*, that belongs to God’s people for all eternity is worth much more than earthly glory.

v. 11 *If we die with Him, we will also live with Him!* Every morning we say, my life is not longer mine! You’ve bought it! You’ve paid for it! If I don’t do that, I’d be wasting that day and harming everybody those around me! You’ve saved Me. I am Yours! Use my life however You want today! *Gal. 2:20.* My life is about the Lord now! The same way Lord, You surrendered to the Father’s will – not my will but Thy will be done!

v. 12 *If we endure, we shall also reign with Him:* This principle assures us that our present difficulty or trial is worth enduring. The reward is greater than what one might gain from quitting. We will *reign with Him!* The Bible says that we will rule and *reign* with Jesus Christ. This future destiny explains much of the difficulty described in this passage. We understand that God is training us to rule and reign beside Him in the world to come. *If we deny Him, He also will deny us:* The song warns those who deny Jesus that they themselves will be denied. By doctrine or manner of living, one may deny who Jesus is, deny what He has done for us, or deny what He commands us to do.

v. 13 *If we are faithless, He remains faithful:* We cannot deny Jesus and we must keep our allegiance to Him. Yet if one does fall away, it doesn’t change who God is - *He remains faithful.* The Christian can stand faithful as God empowers them. Even if one has been wavering, they still have time - as the Spirit of God calls to them even now - to turn back to the faithful God. We can be like the prodigal son, who came to his senses, saw his faithfulness, and came home to his father who had been faithful to him the whole time.

v. 14 *Remind them of these things:* Timothy must always *remind* his hearers of *these things.* His job as a pastor was to keep his congregation always focused on the gospel. It is so easy for the church, being constantly tempted, to get its focus off of the message that really matters. This temptation must be resisted, and the church should constantly remember *these things.* **2Ti 2:8, 11-13.** *Not to strive about words to no profit:* At the same time, there were things that Timothy must *not* focus on. The church must stand for the truth, but it must not become a debating society. *To the ruin of the hearers,* which is a serious matter and much to lose. Taking the focus off the message of God, and putting the focus on human opinions and endless debates, will result in *the ruin of the hearers.*

v. 10 I endure all thing for the sake of the elect, those who are going to hear the gospel one day and the they will believe in it. All have a right to hear the gospel I will endure all things that as many as possible get the same chance to hear and abide by the gospel that I did! What a tremendous example of being “others” centered! Our enduring has a wonderful, eternal ending! This is the power to endure the hardness, and to endure the suffering and to endure the ridicule or whatever, realizing the heavenly reward that we have!

v. 11 Those people, who died to their own will, are the only people living, entering into the greatest life that a person could ever live.

v. 12 If we endure all the way to the end, will reign with Him! **Mat 25:23** His lord said to him, *Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things (the Millennial reign). Enter into the joy of your lord.* If we deny the Lord, He will deny us!

v. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful! He cannot deny Himself! Man’s unbelief. Man’s unbelief doesn’t change one thing about Who He is and Who He says he is. If doesn’t matter if no one on the face of the planet believes He is still who He is and what He says He is, is the truth! *the hearers.*

v. 14 Timothy remind them of these things! Charge or command them before the Lord not to strive, argue about words. Remind them and charge them not to strive about words. Many just want to argue! Get out and tell somebody about the Gospel! Arguing only causes confusion and rarely if ever lead anyone to the Lord! We are not to get into the strife over words because all they do is subvert.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Ti 2:15 *Be diligent* (eager, zealous - it's not book learning, a practice, but an attitude to please God) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:16 *But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.*

2Ti 2:17 *And their message will spread* (find pasture) *like cancer* (gangrene!). *Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 2Ti 2:18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.*

v. 15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God*: Paul exhorts Timothy to courage and action. Timothy's goal was not to present himself approved to people, but *to God*. He wasn't to regard the job of being a pastor as a popularity contest but instead as a call to faithfulness *to God*. *A worker who does not need to be ashamed*: It is embarrassing to do a job poorly and then to have your work examined. The Bible warns us that the work of each Christian will be examined at the judgment seat of Christ (2Co 5:10). Therefore we have another motivation to work diligently for the Lord, so we will not be *ashamed* when our work is examined. *Rightly dividing the word of truth*: This was to be a focus of Timothy's hard work. He was to work hard so he could rightly divide the word of God. Timothy, as a faithful pastor, was to be *rightly dividing* God's Word. His teaching was to be a “right dividing” of the Word of God, correctly teaching his congregation.

v. 16 *But*, in contrast, *shun profane and vain babblings*: This refers to anything that takes the focus off of the gospel and God's Word. These *babblings* are *profane* because they are unholy in contrast to the holiness of God's Word. They are *vain*, because even though people like to hear them, they don't have lasting value.

vs. 17-18 *Their message will spread like cancer*: The message of *profane and vain babblings* may spread quickly and be popular. They are like a cancer that spreads fast and captures an audience. *Hymenaeus and Philetus*: Hymenaeus is mentioned in 1Ti 1:20 as a man whom Paul *delivered to Satan that he may learn not to blaspheme*. This is the only place where we hear of Philetus, and here Paul tells us of their error. They were *of this sort* - that is, they had a message full of *profane and vain babblings*, and apparently the message was somewhat popular, because it spread quickly. They had *strayed concerning the truth*: Apparently, they started out correctly, and then *strayed* from that correct position, *saying that the resurrection is already past*: They were teaching that we were already in God's millennial kingdom, or that there was no resurrection to come - it had already occurred. They did *overthrow the faith of some*: Though the only false doctrine Paul mentioned regarding these two is that they taught *that the resurrection is already past*, the effect was to *overthrow the faith of some*. Undoubtedly, this was not their *only* error; and a fundamental error in such an area often leads to many more strange beliefs, until one has abandoned Jesus and His truth all together. Paul said, *they overthrow the faith of some*. We shouldn't require that *everyone* be led astray by a teacher before we avoid them; even if *some* are having their faith overthrown, it is bad enough.

v. 15 Present a balanced view – *rightly dividing*, (straight cutting!) **the Word of Truth! Stay with what is central in the Word of God, then you won't be ashamed! You're out to make the vertical with the Lord your priority! You're out to please Him, not men! We all have that privilege to be diligent and present ourselves approved to God!**

v. 16 Stay away that doesn't come from the Word. Bible codes, false, fanciful doctrines.

vs. 17-18 These false doctrines are like and spread like cancer! Today we are way too tolerant about false doctrine. There is so much error that goes on. Too many say, it's really doesn't matter that much as long as we stay united. Paul comes along and says this false doctrine is like cancer, Hymenaeus and Philetus have introduced a false doctrine saying the resurrection has already passed, which has caused the overthrow of faith of some. How serious is cancer or gangrene, (could be so translated). What would you do to avoid cancer?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Ti 2:19 *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

2Ti 2:20 *But in a great house (that's the church for believers) there are not only vessels (vessels to be used, not seen, but fit for the Master's use) of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay (pottery), some for honor and some for dishonor.*

2Ti 2:21 *Therefore if anyone cleanses (purge out the old leaven) himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good (not great, but good, like giving a cup of cold water!) work.*

v. 19 *Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands:* Paul makes it clear that the kingdom of God cannot be shaken. Though men like Hymenaeus and Philetus made dangerous attacks against the church and their message spread like cancer, and even though the faith of some might be overthrown, *nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands.* God has a plan, God has a purpose, God has a strategy, and it is not going to fail. **Having this seal:** There are two seals on the solid foundation of God. **The Lord knows those who are His:** “The words are taken from **Num 16:5**, ‘In the morning the Lord will show who are His. **Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity**, possibly referring to the story of Korah (**Num 16:26-27** or **Isa 52:11**). This is the second inscription on the foundation of God. It is true that God knows those who are His; and He calls those who are His to leave their sin behind. **The solid foundation of God stands:** It isn't going to change; therefore, we can keep our focus on it. It is hard to focus on something that often changes, so God gave us a solid foundation in His Word to keep our focus on.

vs. 20-21 *But in a great house:* Paul just used the picture of God's building (*the solid foundation of God stands*). Now he thinks of that building as a *great house* that has a variety of *vessels* in it - bowls, plates, vases, and other such things. **Vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay:** Some are made of *gold and silver*, and some are made of *wood and clay*. Some are used on occasions of great *honor* and some are used for *dishonor* - such as a garbage bin or an ashtray. **Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter:** The *latter* things are the things of *dishonor* mentioned in **2Ti 2:20**. If we cleanse ourselves from dishonorable things, God will regard us as *vessels of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master*. Paul spoke about a cleansing that isn't just something God does for us as we sit passively. This is a *self-cleansing for service* that goes beyond a general cleansing for sin. The main aspect of cleansing which comes to us as we trust in Jesus and His work on our behalf. This work of cleansing is really God's work in us and not our work. There is another aspect of cleansing which God looks for us to do with the participation of our own will and effort. Not that it is our work apart from God, but it is a work that awaits our will and effort: **If anyone cleanses himself.** This aspect of cleansing is mostly connected with usefulness for service, and closeness to God. **Sanctified** means *set apart*, just as much as there are certain bowls and plates that we use more than others, or are set aside to some honorable purpose, so some people are more *sanctified and useful* to God than others. They are more *prepared for every good work* than others. **Prepared for every good work:** We must not think of being usable primarily in the sense of serving in the church. God wants to use His people for *every good work*, including those at the workplace, the school, in the home, in the community. This happens as one will cleanse himself and set yourself aside to God as a *vessel for honor*. Your conduct - clean or unclean; set apart to God or not set apart to God; useful to Jesus or not useful to Jesus - really matters. It greatly affects how God can use you and will use you to touch the lives of others. **Rom 9:21-23** *Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? [22] What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, [23] and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, **2Co 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **Act 9:15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.*

v. 19 *The solid foundation of God's word stands, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His and Let everyone who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity! God is not a wreck of His people departing from the word. The solid foundation of God's word stands!*

vs. 20-21 *If anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonoring, he will be a vessel for honor, one who cleanses himself from what is dishonor. If someone comes into our house and a guest wants a drink, we would grab the cleanest glass, just as God would do. He desires a clean vessel from us as well! God prepares the vessels that he uses. And the Bible tells us not to despise the days of little things, because those are the days of preparation. So purge yourself from these, from filthiness, from uncleanness, that you might be a vessel of honor, that is sanctified. It is important that we have a life of purity that we might be vessels of honor, that are fit for the Master's use. How clean is my vessel for use by my Master? Am I fit for my Master's use, right now?*

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER – “Be Strong in Grace; Approved and Disapproved Workers!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

2Ti 2:22 **Flee** (constantly flee!; present active imperative!) **also youthful lusts; but pursue** (present active imperative – keep deliberately, running from these!) **righteousness, faith, love** (no friction), **peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

2Ti 2:23 **But avoid** (constantly avoid; present active imperative!) **foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife** (division, discord).

2Ti 2:24 **And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient** (forbearing), **Mt. 11:28, 29**

2Ti 2:25 **in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,**
2Ti 2:26 **and that they may come to their senses** (awaken out of a stupor) **and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

vs. 22-23. Flee also youthful lusts: This is the first aspect of cleansing! **Youthful lusts** describes the sort of desires and temptations that are especially prominent in young adults. Sexual temptation, illicit pleasure of the flesh, and a longing for fame and glory often mark one’s youth. **Flee also youthful lusts.** Don’t entertain them. Don’t challenge them. Don’t try and endure them. You can’t really say “yes” to God until you can say “no” to some other things. **But pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace:** Cleansing can never be a matter of just avoiding bad things. It must also be the pursuit of good things. Therefore there are both things that we must **flee** from and things we must **pursue**. We must pursue those good things **with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart:** To be cleansed, we must do everything we can to be right in our personal relationships with others. Cleansing needs to extend to how we treat others. Bad relationships really hinder our service to the Lord. We must do what we can to set things right if we want to be used of God as much as we can be. **But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes:** Walking clean also means staying clear of endless disputes and arguments. These distracting interests can limit how much God can use us.

v. 24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all: The great men of our world are not usually thought of as servants nor as gentle. Yet in the kingdom of God, greatness is marked by being a **servant of the Lord** and by being **gentle to all**. When Paul wrote to Timothy about **a servant of the Lord**, he told him about some of the basic characteristics of a godly pastor. Timothy **must not quarrel but be gentle to all**. It was not his job as a pastor to pick fights and to look for conflict. Some men only feel energized and motivated if they have an argument; Timothy (and every pastor) should be of a different sort. Timothy must be **able to teach**. Paul placed such great emphasis on God’s Word and the requirement of the pastor to be **able to teach**. Timothy must be **patient**. God’s work often takes time. Sometimes we can see why it takes so much time, but God is not in a hurry, and wants us to learn how to patiently trust Him. To be **a servant of the Lord** - a vessel of honor for Him - we must be empty, clean, and available. If we refuse to empty ourselves, clean ourselves, and make ourselves available to the Lord, we will find ourselves captive to the devil in one sense or another.

vs. 25-26 Timothy must be **in humility correcting those who are in opposition:** The gentleness and patience Timothy must have does not mean he is to never confront those who need to be confronted; but he must do it **in humility correcting those who are in opposition:** Paul specifically told Timothy how to correct these opposing ones. **If God perhaps will grant them repentance:** They need to repent, and this repentance will never happen apart from a work of God in their heart. **So that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses:** Anyone who fights against God is deceived, and must come to their senses; repentance flows as someone comes to the truth in this way. **And escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him:** Those who are in opposition to God’s work, whether they know it or not, are bound in a demonic deception, and are doing the devil’s work. They need to **escape the snare of the devil**, and God is ready to set them free. **Taken captive by him to do his will:** Paul spoke of those who serve the devil and those who serve God. There is a choice for every person, every Christian, who they will decide to serve.

v. 22-23 Three things; Be careful who you hang around with, who you make your influences; Be careful in life what you pursue; Be careful what you flee in your life? These three things will map out your life outcome! Look for this kind of influence and peers in your life, especially in the one you would marry! This is what we are to flee! Witness to somebody, don’t dispute and argue!

v. 24 Don’t quarrel, don’t fight, but be firm but gentle to all! Pro 25:15 Something said that is the truth and it is said in gentleness is harder to ignore than a broken bone! Contend earnestly for the gospel, but do it in gentleness. Be able to teach. Don’t try to win arguments. Help to understand. Be patient with people who are slow. Who else will help them?

vs. 25-26 They need to be corrected but with a tone of humility. Can we change anyone else’s mind? Can we intellectually save them? NO! We trust God. Paul does not minimize the danger of what they are doing! They are instruments of the devil. They are preaching another gospel, which is no gospel. But it is God’s job to bring them out of that. It is our job to correct, to have an answer from the Word of God!

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HAVE THINE OWN WAY – Pollard/Stebbins - Maranatha Music

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me.*