

Lessons for Today

From 2nd Timothy

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2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

This encourages more than just reading our Bible. It also encourages us to study it. And there's a reason given: to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.



Verse 16

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

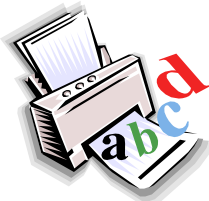
Shun profane and vain babblings. Many people talk a lot, but when they get done talking, there hasn't really been much said - other than vain babblings.

We are to shun profane and vain babblings because they only increase unto more ungodliness.

Verses 17, 18

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Hymenaeus and Philetus' words ate as a canker.



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We wouldn't want these two around. Their words were dangerous, overthrowing the faith of some. They were saying that the resurrection was already past - which meant they believed that none of their hearers were going to heaven.

Why would they want to teach that? because they were false teachers. They weren't studying the true Word of God, and therefore weren't speaking the truth.

They were taking away the confidence of some just by what they were saying.

Some actually gave up their faith in God just because of what these two were teaching.

It would have been better for them to have had a millstone hung around their neck, and thrown into the ocean - as the terrible judgment that would come to them later would be far worse.

Why does the Bible speak of this? because it happened. These two were troublemakers, hurting other souls.

We can see the danger here that can be with one's words.

Matthew 12:37

For by thy words thou shalt be justified,
and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

How would you know this, unless you heard it from God's Word?

Verse 19

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

The foundation of God is sure - This is the foundation upon which spiritual things can be built, because it stands sure.

We don't have to worry about the foundation of God crumbling, because it is sure, having this seal - *The Lord knows them that are His*.

The Lord knows who you are. He knows where you come from. He knows everything about you. He knows everything that's good about you, and He knows everything that's tainted about you.

There isn't any doubt in God's mind who belongs to Him. This is part of His foundation: being sure, God knowing about us.

You want to be in the place where you are standing on something you know is sure. What better place than on the foundation of God.

Now, something is added to this:

and let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity

That statement speaks to everyone who names the name of Christ - he is to depart from iniquity, depart from his sinful ways.

If we are going to serve God, we want to clean up our life. If some of our ways are not pleasing to Him, we want Him to change us.

If we are going to stand before the Lord in that day, we must depart from iniquity. That's all there is to it!

How do you clean up the house?
You don't just clean it once, do you?



There are a lot of places in your house you clean up day after day for it to stay clean.

Well, maybe you need to check and see where there are places in your spiritual house that need to be cleaned up, too.

We want to be holy, living without sin, for without holiness no man shall see God - **Hebrews 12:14**. If we're going to heaven, we've got to be a holy people - so let's take to heart the things which God has to say in His Word.

Verse 20

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

A vessel of honour - If I came over to your house, could you show me a vessel of gold? What about a vessel of silver?

Could you show me a vessel of wood and a vessel of earth?

Some vessels are vessels unto honour, and some to dishonour. There are some vessels in your home you wouldn't want to put on display.

Now, there is a spiritual lesson here: People are likened to vessels, and we want to be that vessel of honour unto the Lord.

God doesn't want to leave us with sin in our lives. He is willing to forgive. Let's know that.

He wants us to be in that place of walking with Him as vessels of honour.

God, in His goodness, goes beyond what we can imagine in dealing with sin.

I think about Jesus. I take this word *honour*, and I think about those scribes and Pharisees who said such awful things to Jesus' face.

Jesus spoke up to them. He didn't say much, but His words were weighty: *You do, indeed, dishonour Me* - [John 8:49](#).

That would make me tremble, to think that I dishonoured the Lord; but that's what those scribes and Pharisees were doing. They were dishonouring the Lord Jesus.

In dealing with sin in the lives of people, and with words such as the words these scribes and Pharisees had spoken, and in dealing with the things that took place at the crucifixion - what did Jesus have to say? Who did He scold?

His prayer was, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*.

Now, we must consider today what it means to honour the Lord in our lives.

When we come to the house of God, it surely ought to always be a time to honour the Lord. Church is a house of worship, a house of praise - a place where God's presence abides.

I don't go to church looking for honour. I go to church to give honour - to give honour to God.

God speaks of these vessels of honour and vessels of dishonour - and we want to be sure, in ourselves, that we aren't vessels of dishonour.

We surely don't want to be living something that would bring dishonour to the Lord.

Let's honour God in all that we say and in all that we do. Honouring Him when we're alone,

and honouring Him when we're with others.

Colossians 3:23

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men

It's nice to know that somehow the things we do and say will come into His sight and ears as something we did unto Him.

Verse 21

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Let's look further, now - or, should I skip this next verse?

Verse 22

Flee also youthful lusts:

but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

This verse speaks of fleeing youthful lusts, but it is for all of us - both young people and adults.

Flee youthful lusts - that applies to all of us. Lust is lust, and lust is wrong no matter what age one may be. As God's children, this should have no part in us.

follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Lord, I want to make sure my heart is pure, clean, upright - where my light can really shine brightly - **Matthew 5:16**.

Verse 23-25

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Foolish and unlearned questions

Can God make a rock so big that He can't lift it?
What a foolish question!

God possesses all wisdom and all knowledge and all understanding and all power. Why should we want to turn that fact into such a foolish question? If your children do that, correct them, and teach them why it's wrong.

Many foolish and unlearned questions only bring strife. And some people are always wanting to do just that: ever arguing and stirring up strife.

And the servant of the Lord must not strive - Many strive about the Word, Well, I don't believe it that way! God is displeased when we handle His Word in such a manner.

Patient - where did that word come from?

There's one thing about patience - in many lives it seems to have a quick end. What about you? How patient and longsuffering are you?

We need this fruit of longsuffering manifest in our lives every day. A lot of things require patience if they are ever going to get done.

When we we're not being patient, what do we do? How do we treat our mate? or our children? or the preacher! (that just slipped in here).

Does preaching the Gospel mean the preacher never has any faults? Be patient with him. Don't pick him apart. Pray for him.

Now, the preacher also needs patience with those he deals with. As he helps people come into the realm of having a stedfast Christian walk, the preacher finds that some of those people require great patience.

James 1:4

But let patience have her perfect work,
that ye may be perfect and entire,
wanting nothing.

Patience has a work to do. Don't hinder it. Let it do its work. Let it have its course.

Things come along that can make some people impatient, even to where they want to get angry. But let's be watchful. We are to love one another, and that may require that we are patient. So, let's calm down, and be patient.

God is patient. It's His way. Just think of how longsuffering He's been with you. He didn't cut off your head. He left it right there on your neck!

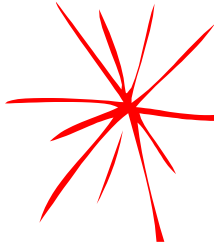
But some can't seem to get into the place of bearing up unto the circumstances.

I think we all have to come to the understanding that these lessons we've looked at in Timothy are things which should be active in our lives.

Why be impatient? Is there something in us that makes us that way? There must be a reason why impatience is controlling so many lives, to where they can't seem to put it down.

They can't seem to let go. They need help, and sometimes may even need deliverance.

I don't want the devil controlling my life. I don't want him having me in a tither to where I'm impatient all the time, where I scream and yell at everyone who tries my patience.



If you're like that, maybe there's a need that you're not seeing of letting patience have her perfect work in you.

In meekness - That quiet person who doesn't pop off all the time - that's someone who is meek.

Is there something wrong with them because they're meek? Isn't everyone supposed to be ready to blow their lid?

Instructing those that oppose themselves- Some folks have a way that is obnoxious, and they need to be instructed from the Word to change their ways.

There are a lot of people who oppose themselves. They oppose anything that they should take hold of. They need to be in the realm of having meekness, of being teachable.

There may be some people you could help, those you could instruct who oppose themselves. God is saying to instruct them in meekness.

IF God peradventure - Paul didn't say God will: he said IF God peradventure (possibly) will stretch out His hand and give them repentance to acknowledge the truth.

Let's remember, repentance is not automatic. It is something that is granted from God.

You can pray, and say *I'm sorry* all you want to - but if God doesn't grant true repentance those words will be meaningless.

God wants us to be in this place where we find true repentance, but what would be the grounds for God to grant that repentance?

If God is going to give repentance to someone, is He going to give repentance only to have him go out and sin all over again? is He going to tell him that he can just continue on living that same old, sinful way?

Romans 6:1, 2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

What would be some of the groundwork, now, for God to grant repentance? The acknowledging of the truth.

Some people will not admit they're wrong, no matter how wrong they may be. They declare,
But it's not my fault! If they hadn't . . .
They're to blame, not me!

Do you want God to grant repentance? Or do you want to continue going on in your ugly way, going on in your impatience - in the realm where all those sinful things drag you down?

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What is God wanting us to do? God wants us to confess our sin.

God doesn't want us to remain in our sinful way. All He wants is for us to ask for forgiveness, and repent.

That gets us in the right place of leaning towards God where He can grant repentance and forgiveness.

God, I've been doing wrong. Lord, forgive me for my wrong doing. Lord forgive me for hurting others. Lord forgive me.

And, if you've hurt people through your ways, you need to go to them and ask them to forgive you - as well as looking for God to forgive you.

It takes repentance - acknowledging the truth.

Some will never confess they're in the wrong, because in their eyes they're not wrong.

Everyone else is wrong - but not them.

You've got to be big enough to ask for forgiveness. Are you big enough to ask God, *Forgive me for hurting these people in the things I've been doing and saying.*

You've got to stand up and say it. Don't be ashamed when you've done wrong and are seeking to make it right. Acknowledge what you've been doing.

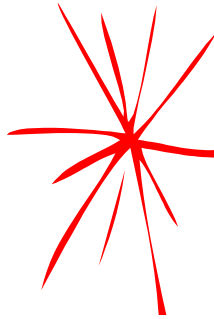
You'll get the victory so much easier when you're willing to let God do it. But there's got to be an acknowledging of the truth. There's where I find many fail.

Yes, this is one area where I've seen many fail, an area where I've worked hard many times to try to get a couple back together after they've been at loggerheads against one another.

Always a big mouth.

Always a big fight.

Always carrying on, and wondering why they can't get along.



There are families who live on the edge all the time. As a preacher, it's not an easy task to get them to face up to the real problem.

If you quit loving your husband, quit loving your wife - things won't get straightened out until that love returns.

All of these things we've looked at are lessons to help us along the way.

So if you're having struggles, if you can't get along and need help, go to the preacher - let him instruct you from God's Word, showing you what God's way is.

It's hard to get two people who are at odds with each other to acknowledge the truth. After all, only one person is wrong - that other one.

So many are in this place. How can you help them to acknowledge the truth - when they're both going in the wrong direction?

and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will - verse 26

There are those who are caught in the snare of the devil. The devil has them where he wants them, and they can't get away, no matter how hard they try.

The Word is telling them how to recover themselves out of the devil's snare. A snare is a trap. Animals get caught in snares set by a hunter, and they can't get loose.

Does the devil set snares for people? Do people ever get caught in his snares? Does he ever put a half naked woman in front of a man? What is she there for? as a snare to trap some soul.

Is that soul going to do as the Bible would instruct - and turn and flee from that snare? Or is he going to say, *This is just what I've been looking for.*

The snares of the devil are real. The Bible tells us about his snares, and how to recover ourselves out of them.

With his snares, the devil takes souls captive at his will. He sees an opportunity with those who play around and play around with temptation.

The answer is in the last part of this text - taken captive by him at his will. They're now in the grasp of the devil, taken over and can't get away.

They're in the devil's snare.

How many people there are who are in this place. In meekness we should instruct those who oppose themselves, IF God peradventure will grant them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.

Recovering yourself out of the devil's snare - Captive of the devil. He catches more people in his traps and snares.

Hey, let's live for Jesus - that will keep us away from those snares. Let's love God, serving Him with all of our hearts.

Let's do what we should be doing in our walk - and keep free from all of those things. Others may get hung up in those snares - but let us be careful.

Here in 2nd Timothy we have looked at some verses of Scripture that are really helpful to us. They show us the light, what's good and what's right - and also what's wrong.

It's wonderful that we have the Bible, and can study it to learn how to get loosed from the snares of the devil.

Not everyone knows how to get free from his snares. Pray for those who are hung up - those whose lives are filled with troubles and strife. Pray that they will get into God's Word, and find victory in Jesus.

I trust you have come to the understanding that these things that are brought out in 2nd Timothy are things which should be active in your daily life as a believer.

The Bible

'Tis the inspired Word of God
Filled with truth, grace and love
Shows the way to eternal life
How to live above evil and strife,

Convinces and convicts men of their sin
Until their confessing and receiving Him in

Years it has stood the test
Many read and are blest
Quick and powerful is His Word
Sharper than any two-edged sword.

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