

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Here in Ch.2 Paul is writing to His son in the faith Timothy about what makes for a Good minister of the Lord.

A) He has commissioned Timothy to take the things that he has taught him and teach them to other men

B) Men who can disciple and train others
Pass it on – Divide and Conquer.

C) As we come to Verse 14 – He says

Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

Remind them= Keep on Reminding them – do it as much as Possible

A) In the final section of this Chapter – He is going to lay out things to focus on and some things to Avoid

B) Stay away from certain kinds of conversations
Here He says – Don't not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

C) Paul will give 3 such exhortations in this section
Verse 14, 16 & Verse 23

1) 3 Times because it can be such a trap

Stay away from word wars – they only cause trouble – ruin hearers – Catastrophe

A) One of the biggest mistakes we can make in the Church is when we start to major on the minors –

B) We get side tracked on side issues – non essentials

C) Issues that are not going to build up anyone – only cause strife & Division

1) Completely miss the heart

D) Example: Baptism- Full immersion / sprinkle

What is Baptism: Outward profession/ inward work

A) Mark of a Disciple– Jesus said repent, be baptized

B) We do full immersion: Symbolic picture
Romans

1) Burial and Resurrection

C) But I will tell you this – If I was in a country where there wasn't a clean body of water

1) No problem- Pouring water over someone's head

D) Heart is the issue – I want to go on record – outwardly profess – Follower of Christ

1) Heart issue

E) John 4 Worship – Heart issue – Spirit & truth

Now Paul presents the way to not get sidetracked, majoring on minors – missing the heart Verse 15

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

A) Be diligent – Speaks of an eagerness – Priority

B) Diligence also implies a discipline – a steadiness

1) Marathon runner who keeps the pace – keeps going

C) Trouble with many in this fast- food world

1) Don't have a diligence – Press on – keep at it

D) We want everything now –

1) Computer control- less reading / avoid the tedious

- God has **hidden** many precious things in such a way that it is a **reward to the diligent, a prize to the earnest, but a disappointment to the lazy soul.**

The pearl is buried beneath the ocean waves;

A) The **gold** is imprisoned in the rocky heart of the mountains;

B)The gem is found only after you crush the rock which encloses it;

C) The **nut** is hidden in its hard case; that needs to be cracked

So too the word of God contains treasure that is to be dug for / Gold that is to be mined / gems waiting to be discovered

A) But it takes Diligence & Discipline – time – effort

B) But when you see the growth in your life – it is well worth it.

Motivation for diligence: To present yourself approved to God:

A) Timothy's goal was not to present himself approved to *people*, but **to God**.

B) He wasn't to regard the job of being a pastor as a popularity contest, but instead as a call to faithfulness **to God**.

There is a Story told of a young boy in Austria giving his first violin recital. He had studied hard for years under the guidance of one of the greatest masters in all of Europe.

The boy had tremendous talent, and he had learned his lessons well.

Following each piece, the crowd cheered loudly.

He was one of the finest young performers they had ever had the pleasure of hearing. And yet the boy seemed not to notice their **expressions of approval**.

When He was done – Standing Ovation loud Cheers Encore – **The boy sat there expressionless** – looking up into the 2nd Balcony - Old man – the master teacher

Finally nodded – Then the Boy smiled

His Performance wasn't for the crowd – it was for the master -

A) Mistake many make in ministry today– Performance for the crowd – want to be accepted – they sugarcoat the truth – avoid controversial topics –

B) Goal – Please the master – God pleaser – not a man pleaser!

C) Be diligent Rightly dividing the word of truth: correctly handling

D) Implies cutting through, to cut a straight line/or road, plowing straight/ a mason squaring & cutting a stone

1) Orthos = straight – We get *orthopedic* and *orthodoxy*.

Knowing the word and presenting it in a way that is consistent with the whole of Scripture

A) Study Timothy –work hard to handle it in an accurate manner. Know the heart – spirit of the letter

B) Timothy is to “impart the word of truth *without deviation, straight, undiluted.*”

C) Minor surgery Thursday on my finger - Will it hurt – Didn't candy coat it –

1) Yes – very matter of fact – but it will heal – the word in the same way.

D) I hope you appreciate that here at CCV we give it to you straight!

One reason Timothy needed to be diligent was because of the wolves infiltrating the Church.

A) In Acts 20:17 Paul predicted this would happen

B) Here he mentions two such individuals – Another Conversation to avoid Verse 16-18

But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some

C) We have already met Hymenaeus in 1 Timothy 1:20, where Paul states he had excommunicated him and Alexander.

1) Now Hymenaeus has a new sidekick, and they are working hard to spread a new infection.

Paul description of this heresy is stronger than in verse 14 & verse 23 Profane & vain babblings

A) Babblers – like to hear themselves talk

B) Profane = outside the temple or outside the realm of what is balanced and biblical

1) **Shun = Stay away from.**

C) Paul gives a rather repulsive picture of the false teachers and their message, spreads like cancer

1) **It eats away – consumes**

D) They graze in the mind & the heart – but they don't produce anything– instead they consume, they take away.

E) Cancer is literally **GANGRENE**{Not as deadly but a very repulsive flesh eating disease

1) **Death of tissue**: death and decay of soft tissues of the body as a result of lack of blood to the area. {Dies

F) That is the picture that Paul paints of these false teachers –

1) I wonder who Paul would name today: TV

- David Koresh – How could anyone believe he was Jesus – If Jesus, why did He need glasses.

A Word of Hope V.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.”

A) **Direct quote from Numbers 16 – Incident w/ Korah – came to Challenge Moses**

B) Numbers 16:5, ‘In the morning the Lord will show who are His.’”

1) Pick a side

C) Those who stayed with Korah – ground opened up and swallowed them

D) The Lord doesn’t tolerate strife and division

1) **Not gracious toward false teachers & those who cause his children to stumble**

E) Better that they had a mill stone around their neck

So Paul issues this warning: “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

A) **Iniquity is morally wrong behavior**

B) **The Lord knows those who are His – those who really belong to Him – We can prove that we belong to Him – by departing from iniquity.**

- I know the Lord – but I am sleeping with my girlfriend – really, is that 3 Corinthians?
- The World loves to see people name the name of Christ and live in Compromise
- Love to attack it - There should be life changing power attached to your faith

I am not saying that Christians don’t sin – sure we all slip – but what I am saying is that a Christian isn’t going to stand in that sin.

A) **1 John His seed abides – HS –**

B) **Backsliders all have their favorite verses – He who is without sin cast the first stone – take out the log**

1) **Backsliders’ Bible – One verse – Let those who name the name Iniquity**

At this point Paul gives an interesting analogy of the Church. Paul likens the Church to a great house.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- **The church of God is indeed a great house.**

A) **It is a great house because of who it belongs to.**

B) **It is a great house because it is planned and designed on a great scale.**

1) It has the most brilliant Architect, and houses a great multitude of the greatest people to ever walk the earth.

C) **Jews, Gentiles / all back grounds – Some saved out of the pit some saved from the pit**

It is a great house because of the great cost it took to build it.

A) This is a mansion far more valuable than any real estate on earth, built by the great work of Jesus on the cross.

B) It is a **great house** because of its importance.

1) This house and what happens in it is at the center of God’s plan of the ages.

C) **The great house is made up of a mixed multitude**

Vessels of honor & dishonor / Sheep / goats / Korah

Wood & Clay – throw a ways – Waste / trash

A) **Silver and gold – more permanent**

B) Debate: Different types of Christians – or a distinction between true & false teachers

C) Clear on this: Condition for service:

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, False teachings / immorality etc.

He will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

We have a part to play in our cleansing – Not for Salvation / but Sanctification

A) We don't sit back passively and do nothing

B) Right choices- avoid – what we take part in.

C) If anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

D) Sanctified = set apart from the world & unto God
1) Useful = fit available &
2) Prepared = Able

Verse 22 Paul mentions what is needed to maintain that usefulness.

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Youthful Lust: Not talking only to Young

A) Lust – common to youth – affects anyone

B) A Honorable vessel is maintained by flight—“Flee the evil desires of youth.”

C) Often this is interpreted to mean flee *sensual* desires and is then tied in with the example of young Joseph

1) Yes, running from sensuality is an essential survival tactic. Flee or fall!

But the context here has nothing really to do with sensuality –

A) But rather stress qualities that spring from a youthful temperament.

B) Fee translates “the evil desires of youth” as “headstrong passions of youth”—the desires characteristic of youth.

C) Impatience: We want it now !

Growing problem today: 20/30's Churches and corporations – Sense of entitlement

A) Study in USA today nearly 2/3's of all 20 something – major debt

B) Some caused by school loans – but others by wanting more than they can afford

1) Nearly ½ of those in debt – have collection agencies after them.

C) In the work place: Prone to ask for vacations after 2 months of working some place

1) Don't care that they don't get paid

D) Quick Promotions – Expect the best – paid the best – Technology savvy –

1) They Know more.

E) All stems from – impatience – sense of entitlement

1) But one doesn't have to be young to fall into those traps

Another Youthful temperament: Harshness

A) Symptom of Pride - Know it all.

B) Contentious – Headstrong – Loving debates

C) Flee youthful Lust - but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

D) Don't Just run from – Run to something

1) Pursue righteousness – right heart – conduct that glories God

Pursue faith – A combination of belief, plus trust in God.

Pursue love – Namely, love for people. Love the saints, & sinners – Church and the Lost

Pursue peace – Calm & harmony w/his people...in the company of other believers.

Don't run Alone - Those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart

3rd Kind of Conversation to Avoid:

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Dave Guzik “**The stakes are high**: If we take the focus off the message of God, and put the focus on human opinions and endless debates, it will result in the ruin of the hearers.

I love how Paul wraps up this section: **How to win back the misled** Read Verse 24-26

Be Gentle – even to those who oppose or insult us.

Paul himself ministered like this, as he reminded the Thessalonians: “**We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children**” (1 Thessalonians 2:7).

Able to teach – **Not just apt to talk!** Having carefully compared the teachings of the Word on the subject.

Timothy must be **able to teach**. With the great emphasis Paul placed on God’s Word, a pastor who is not **able to teach** is like a surgeon who can’t use a scalpel.

Patient – when wronged. Not resentful.

.” William Barclay remarks, “There may be greater sins than touchiness, but there is none which does greater damage in the Christian church.” **Many of us are quick to take offense and slow to forgive**

Timothy must be **patient**. God’s work often takes time.

In Humility – correct those in opposition, with no pride, or we’ll prejudice them.

Result: those who are ensnared by the devil – might come to repentance

Ensnared: Some don’t realize it.

Repentance: Change of mind and heart

A) Turn from Sin to the Lord