

2 Timothy 2:20-22 Lesson 8

Use the Good Dishes

Day 1: Read 2 Timothy 2:20-22 Picture

1. Last week Paul cautioned us not to be word wranglers, but instead to be Word handlers. He finished the section by encouraging Timothy that no matter what kind of corruption is going on around us, Christ is in control of building His church and He “knows who are His own.” Who had been trying to corrupt the church at Ephesus? (v. 17)_____
2. It could be confusing to Timothy that if God is sovereign, why are these men able to cause problems? Restate this question according to a modern day corruption affecting the church._____
3. Paul is going to answer this question by presenting a picture of a large house with honorable and dishonorable vessels. What does the picture of the large house represent? Explain._____
4. In the house are two types of vessels, but only one is used by the master. Describe what affections rule the heart of the wood and clay vessels? What about the gold and silver vessels?_____
5. Using your answer to question 4, what does this say about the driving force behind those who are word wranglers?_____

Day 2: Read 2 Tim 2:20-22 Principle

1. So herein lies the choice. Are we going to be dirty dishes, useful only for utilitarian purposes, or are we going to be gold and silver china handled and used by the Master? If the latter is our desire, explain the path to get there? (verse 21a)

2. The word “cleansing” means “*to separate oneself from communion with*”. What would “cleansing” look like for the Ephesian church? (hint - it involves both people and activities)_____

3. What would cleansing look like for us today? Give some specific illustrations. _____

4. You can imagine this might be difficult for the Ephesian church (and for us) because relationships had been formed (i.e. Hymenaeus and Philetus). What was the higher calling of the congregation? (Heb 13:17-18) _____

Day 3 Read 2 Tim 2:20-22 Principle

1. What are the dangers of us not cleansing ourselves of “dirty dishes”? Give some practical implications of what happens when we maintain relationships with those who teach false doctrine and live accordingly? _____

2. What are the three characteristics of the “cleansed vessel” in verse 21? Give an example of what these three descriptions look like in the life of a committed believer. _____

Day 4 Read 2 Tim 2:20-22 Practice

1. Timothy also needs to put this into practice by “fleeing” from his youthful lusts in how he deals with these false teachers. What might his temptation be? (Hint - Imagine you are the pastor of a church and someone continually seeks to lead the sheep astray through false teaching and immoral living.) _____

2. There is also danger in “intellectually engaging” false teachers too much. What might this be? _____

3. We are to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. Explain how these are characteristics of a Christian in community. _____

4. What are some practical things you can do this week to 1) separate yourself from bad influences that have crept into Christianity and 2) separate yourself from a worldly lifestyle so that you can be an honorable dish in the hands of the Master? _____

“Almost half of America is claiming to be born again, but fewer than one in ten has even the foggiest notion of what it means to be a disciple of Christ in biblical terms.”

- David Wells “The Courage to be Protestant”

