

2 Timothy 2:23-26 Lesson 9

Rules in the Ring

Day 1: Read 2 Timothy 2:23-26 Don't Fight Like the World

1. Last week Timothy was told to separate himself from the “dirty dishes”; those *in* the church who were **hurting the church** by preaching false doctrine. This week Paul gives us some rules of engagement. Read verse 23 and describe what “**foolish and ignorant speculations**” look like today. _____

2. Why do word wranglers use these speculations? What purpose do they serve? _____

3. The Emergent Church uses a method called “**deconstructionism**” to avoid acceptance and obedience to the truth. Look up the definition on the internet and describe here. _____

4. You can imagine that Pastor Timothy must have been tempted towards “youthful lusts” (v. 22). In an attempt to protect the flock, his desire would be to engage in “**street fighting**” (**quarrels**). What are the dangers of doing this? _____

5. We are also tempted in one of two ways when we hear error within the church. There are those extremes who “think their spiritual gift is arguing” and then there are those who are “unwilling to defend the truth”. On which side do you err? What is the root sin that drives this error? _____

Day 2: Read 2 Tim 2:23-26 Don't Fight Like the World

1. Verse 24 states that “The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome.” That word is “**doulos**” in the Greek and is better rendered “**slave**”. Explain how this impacts the verse and why the admonition is given. _____

2. “Quarrelsome” literally means “**hand to hand combat**”. Why is this “useless” in accomplishing Timothy’s goal to protect and deliver the message? How is it just as useless today? Give an example of its damaging effects in the church. _____

Day 3 Read 2 Tim 2:23-26 Contend Like Christ

1. Just because we are not to get involved in “street fighting” (quarrels over speculations) does not mean that we don’t stand and fight. There is a way to contend like Christ and it begins with our delivery. Verse 24 says we are to be **kind**. Give an example of how you might deliver a **strong message in a kind manner**. _____

2. Verse 24 also says that we must be “**able to teach**”. Read Titus 1:9 and describe the how the delivery of the Word has both a **formative and a corrective aspect**. Relate this shepherding to an activity like child rearing or coaching. _____

3. The word “**correcting**” in verse 25 means literally “**to disciple**” and was a term used for training children. How is correcting enemies of the gospel much like discipling friends of the truth? _____

4. We looked at how Christ contended for the faith in Matthew 19:1-9. Responding kindly, He goes to the Word rather than dealing with speculation. He exposes their motives and exhorts obedience by standing firm on the truth. Using His example, describe how you would respond to someone speculating with the question, “**Isn’t there a little bit of good in everybody?**” _____

Day 4 Read 2 Tim 2:23-26 Leave the Results to God

1. Only God changes hearts with the gift of repentance (Acts 11:18). Understanding this, describe “**Biblical success**” when it comes to contending like Christ. _____

2. Read verse 26. What aspect of word wrangling and engaging in speculations is intoxicating? How is this used by Satan? _____

3. Read Ephesians 4:14-16. Remember a conversation where you either “**fought like the world**” or “**avoided conflict**” when error was espoused. If you could do it again, explain how you would “**contend like Christ**”.

“If the word do(es) not dwell with power in us, it will not pass with power from us.”

- John Owen - Puritan