

Connection to 2 Timothy 2

Paul directs Timothy to be diligent in his study of the Word so that he is able to teach the church who is able to stand strong on the truth of the gospel.

Introduction/Opening

There I was with no excuse. It was a few days after Christmas, and my son had awoken early that particular morning. He found me playing his new Nintendo® and eating from the candy that his grandmother had sent him and his sister. The problem wasn't that I was playing the game or eating the candy, but that I was doing it without him. At that moment, I did what any quick-thinking dad would do. I threw him a Reese's Cup® (because what six year old doesn't need chocolate before breakfast?) and the controller, and we had a blast.

While this moment of shame was real in a way (my little buddy had his feelings hurt), it was a situation that was easily remedied. However, not all of life's hurts and missteps can be so easily repaired. So the best option is to avoid situations in life where we would be ashamed of our action or lack of action later on.

Paul gave Timothy instruction on how to be a “worker who doesn't need to be ashamed” before God and His people. This instruction is helpful for all believers as we seek to honor God with our lives.

Outline

1. The Power of Words (2 Tim. 2:14-18)
 - a) No Quarreling (v. 14)

Paul's words are a charge by God—a strong word of serious responsibility before God. For the hearers to ignore Timothy and Paul would be functionally to disobey God Himself.

Paul was prohibiting quarrelling, which referred to arguing over trivial things. The result of which is ruin. Christians need to have wisdom in what is worthy of arguing about and what isn't. Items of preference shouldn't divide us.
 - b) Rightly Handle the Word (v. 15)

The implication here is that Timothy is to correctly interpret and teach God's people the Word. Correctly teaching means “cut it straight” and was used to speak of cutting roads and paths in a straight line instead of zigzagging.
 - c) Don't Depart from the Truth (vv. 16-18)

Paul gave Timothy some real life examples of those who have swerved from the truth. (Note the contrast with the necessity to “cut it straight” above.) These

examples departed from the truth in their false teaching regarding the resurrection by claiming that it had already taken place.

2. A Healthy Spiritual Life (2 Tim. 2:19-21)

Paul developed an analogy of a home to talk about the spiritual health and usefulness of God's people. Godly character is built upon a healthy spiritual life. It starts with the foundation—God's firm foundation stands. The foundation here is solid; it isn't going to crumble.

Ancient buildings were inscribed on the foundation with a seal testifying to ownership or purpose. The Lord knows who are His. (See Numbers 16:5.) God is well able to differentiate between the true and the false.

“Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.” comes from Numbers 16:26 but is also seen similarly in Psalm 34:14 and Proverbs 3:7.

What does Paul mean by all of this? God himself has set the foundation of truth. It is His foundation. He has laid it and gets to say what happens.

3. The Conduct that Reflects Well on our Master (2 Tim. 2:22-26)

So, here we have Paul giving Timothy a list of basic actions to take. Some of these actions are proactive good things we need to be doing, and others are actions we take to keep us from failing or corrupting our character.

1. Flee Sinful Passions (v. 22)
2. Pursue Godly Virtues (v. 22)
3. Be in Community with the Local Church (v. 22)
4. Stay Out of Stupid Fights (v. 23)
5. Be Kind (v. 24)
6. Use the Gifts God has Given You (v. 24)
7. Be Patient (v. 24)
8. Be Gentle with Others yet Firm in the Truth (v. 25)

Conclusion

Through understanding the power of our words, the importance of a healthy spiritual life, and having honorable conduct, God has given us what is needed to live an unashamed life. The key for us moving forward is putting into practice what God has taught us that we might honor Him in all we do.

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