

2 Timothy 2:14 – 3:13

Day 1

The Unashamed Worker: Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19

1. What *reminder* was Timothy to give people? 2:14a *What are “these things”?* (See 2 Peter 1:12,13)

Digging Deeper
How did Paul instruct Titus about divisive people? Titus 3:10,11

- What *warning* was Timothy to give and why? 2:14b (Cf. 1 Tim 6:4,5)

FYI: “The phrase ‘these things’ occurs several times in 1 and 2 Timothy. It probably refers to the previous sections most directly...but it may also refer more generally to Paul’s entire instruction to Timothy.” - Platt et al. (171)

“This is not the first time that Paul had warned Timothy concerning...senseless and dangerous striving (1 Tim. 1:4,6,7; 6:3-5,20; also Titus 1:10,14; 3:9) which could only lead to the overthrowing of the faith. The word *katastrophe*, ‘subvert/ruin’ literally means ‘to turn upside down’, the very opposite of edification or building up...[This quarreling] led to endless debates and arguments and word battles which only accomplished what the enemy was aiming at, namely the dividing of the people of God and turning them away from Christ.” - Stuart Allen (284)

2. What characterizes a good workman? 2:15 (See “word of truth” in Ephesians 1:13)

- From whom was Timothy to seek approval? (See 1 Thessalonians 2:4)

FYI: handling/dividing Strong’s NT:3718 *orthotomeo*; to make a straight cut, i.e. (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly (the divine message)

“Timothy must handle the word of truth accurately **in his conduct**. ‘He is superior to the false teachers... because he follows this word of truth aright in his own life, and thus confirms it.’” - Charles Swindoll (187)

‘Correctly handles’ has as its basis the Greek word *orthos* (‘straight’), the same word from which we build words like *orthopedic* and *orthodoxy*. The charge to Timothy is to ‘impart the word of truth *without deviation, straight, undiluted*.’ Here it refers to the straight, precise, **careful communication of the word of truth**, the gospel.” - Hughes (209)

“Can anything be more important for the believer? Of what use will be all Christian effort and witness if it does not square with the Truth. Surely here we come to the heart of all service...If 2 Timothy 2:15 is not obeyed, then confusion reigns and we see the result in the divided state of Christendom around us. All denominations appeal to the Bible, but it becomes like a musical instrument that plays any tune the player wishes. Even Satan can and does quote Scripture but he never rightly divides!” - Stuart Allen (214,217)

3. What was Timothy to **avoid**? What course do worldly or godless controversies take? 2:16,17a (See Acts 14:2) *Why do you think controversy is so infectious?*

FYI: godless chatter/vain babblings Strong’s NT:2757 *kenophonia*; empty sounding, i.e. fruitless discussion

“**gangrene**” carries the idea of spreading poison throughout a system, a dreaded medical condition in the days before the invention of antiseptics andcareful hygiene. A more poignant illustration today would be cancer. `

Worldly and empty chatter - Paul’s characterization of philosophy, humanity’s attempt to understand spiritual truths apart from Scripture – must be cut out of the body or it will metastasize and kill.” - Charles Swindoll (187)

4. Sadly, what had happened with Hymenaeus since Paul's last letter? 2:17,18a (Cross-ref. 1 Timothy 1:20)

- What was the nature of their false teaching? 2:18b (See 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4) Where did rejecting truth of an actual bodily resurrection lead?

FYI: "Of course, Jesus has risen from the dead, and those who are true believers have been raised up with Christ (Eph. 2:6), But the resurrections of believers' bodies...is still a future expectation (Acts 17:26; Romans 8:18-25; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28)." - Platt et al. (174)

5. In spite of any opposition and controversy, of what can we be sure about our foundation? 2:19a (See John 10:14,27)

- What responsibility does that give us? 2:19b (See Isaiah 1:16; John 14:15)

FYI: "**The Lord knows those who are His:** The words are taken from Numbers 16:5, 'In the morning the Lord will show who are His.' - David Guzik

"Drawing on the story of the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in Numbers 16, Paul reminds us, 'The Lord knows those who are His' (2 Tim 2:19). God knows the hearts of people. He knows who His true people are. As awful as the episode of Korah's rebellions was, it did not totally destroy the people of God. And as destructive as the false teaching is, it will not ultimately devastate the church. God has a people that He has chosen for Himself, and no false teacher will ultimately steal away the church of God." - Platt et al. (176)

Applying the Word: *How have you seen someone tactfully and graciously steer someone back to the truth and away from fruitless or argumentative words?*

Day 2

The Clean Vessel, The Lord's Servant. Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26

6. What other analogy about Christian service did Paul use in 2:20?

7. How is a vessel made honorable? 2:21 (See 2 Corinthians 7:1) List what this yields.

8. In order to maintain this special purpose, what was Timothy warned to flee? 2:22a

- What is he told to pursue? 2: 22b (Cf. 1 Timothy 6:11) How do these contrast with what are often youthful inclinations and longings?

FYI: "Believers must understand that it's not enough to run away from sin; we must go after holiness. If we remove our filthy rags, we must put on clean clothes."
 - Tony Evans (1442)

"Often this phrase 'youthful passions' is interpreted as sexual sin. While Scripture indeed teaches we must avoid this (1 Cor. 6:18), the command in this context is not limited to sexual sin. If we glance at verses 23-25, it seems best to understand these desires as the temptation to quarrel, be unkind, or be harsh"
 - Platt et al (177,178)

9. What was Timothy to avoid in his ministry and why? 2:23

FYI: "The false teachers' arguments were literally moronic and ignorant, and it was tempting to use their foolishness against them because it was so thoroughly silly...Timothy could certainly show his stuff – his Biblical fidelity, his reasoned argument in contrast to their drivel. But Paul warned him to refrain 'because you know they ['stupid arguments'] produce quarrels.' I have been in such conversations, and I knew I was right, but I was sick of every word after I said it. But I kept on arguing anyway. My argumentative chic was totally uncool. The Lord's servant must not do this."
 - R. Kent Hughes (219)

10. Summarize the results or effects that godless talk and false teachings produce.

	Problem	Effect/Results
1 Tim. 1:4	<i>"false doctrines... myths/fables and endless genealogies"</i>	<i>"give rise to useless speculation/cause disputes"</i>
1 Tim. 4:1	<i>"follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons"</i>	
1 Tim. 6:4,5	<i>"controversies and quarrels about words"</i>	
1 Tim. 6:20,21	<i>"profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge"</i>	
2 Tim. 2:14	<i>"quarreling/ disputing about words"</i>	
2 Tim. 2:16	<i>"godless/worldly and empty chatter /profane and idle babblings"</i>	
2 Tim. 2:18	<i>departed from/ strayed concerning the truth"</i>	
2 Tim. 2:23	<i>"foolish and stupid arguments"</i>	
Titus 3:9	<i>"foolish controversies...genealogies ...strife and disputes about the Law"</i>	

11. Instead of arguing, what characteristics should “*the Lord’s servant*” display? 2:24 (Check different translations.) *Think about the effects these have on people.*

- *How do you think teaching and answering questions (1 Peter 3:15) differ from the arguing Paul is warning against.)*

12. How is a teacher to handle controversy? 2:25a (See Galatians 6:1)

- What is the hope of this instruction? 2:25b

FYI: “*Gentleness* does not mean timidity. It is strength under control. Timothy was called to correct his opponents but to do so gently.” - Platt et al. (180)

Patient/not resentful/patiently enduring evil Strong’s NT:420 *anexikakos*; enduring of ill, i.e. forbearing: ‘How valuable is patience! Some people walk around expecting to be offended and have a hair-trigger response when they feel wronged...A spiritual leader allows personal insults to go unanswered in order to choose a different response.’
- Charles Swindoll (201)

“*There may be greater sins than touchiness, but there is none which does greater damage in the Christian church.*’ (Barclay)...God’s honored servants must bear evil without being resentful. There are few things more beautiful than a forbearing spirit in God’s servants, and this is so good for the church.”
- R. Kent Hughes (220)

“Of course...pastor/teachers must not avoid all controversy. In fact, they cannot escape it if they are teaching the Bible since everything a faithful teacher presents is by its nature controversial! These controversies refer to things that do not deserve time and energy. Senseless arguments only breed division and quarreling.” - Platt et al. (179)

13. What argument for being peaceful and gentle did Paul give Titus? Titus 3:2-6 (See Paul’s example: 1 Thessalonians 2:7)

14. What do you learn about conversation/speech in the following verses?

- Proverbs 15:1
- Ephesians 4:29
- Colossians 4:6

15. From what is a person rescued? 2:26 (Cf. 1 Timothy 4:1)

- What does this say about who the real enemy is? 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12

16. What insight about truth did Jesus give in John 8:31-32; 42-47?

Applying the Word: *When has someone been gentle in correcting you and leading you to the truth? Or What is one of the most remarkable examples you have seen of someone bearing offenses with a patient and loving response?*

Over the years, how would rate your growth from being argumentative and resentful (holding grudges) to becoming more gentle and forgiving?

Day 3

Perilous Time and Ungodly Men. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

17. What did Paul reveal to Timothy about the course of the future? 3:1 (Cf. 1 Tim. 4:1) *What does this say about the battle that Timothy and all believers face? Why do you think Paul would want Timothy to know this?*

FYI: The “*last days*” is believed by some to be the time in between Christ’s first and second comings. Others believe that this is referring to the end of the age and the great tribulation (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:20,21; Mark 13:19) which precedes Christ’s second coming (Matthew 24:29,30).

“The last days...are terrible indeed. They have always existed in some measure of course, but here they are worldwide and describe a time of darkest paganism and utter apostasy in the world of religion where men will turn away their ears from the truth of God to myths (4:4)...There is certainly no room in the Scriptures for the deceptive idea that the world will get better and better and man will eventually bring in the millennium of peace and plenty!”
- Stuart Allen (297,298)

Difficult/terrible/perilous Strong’s NT:5467 *chalepos*, from NT:5465 through the idea of reducing the strength; difficult, i.e. dangerous, or (by implication) furious

“The word was used in classical Greek both of dangerous wild animals and of the raging sea. Its only other New Testament occurrence is in the story of the two Gaderene demoniacs who were as savage and untamed as wild beasts

18. From the traits given of people in 3:2-4, what three things are these people “*lovers of*”? (Contrast Matthew 22:37,39)

• 3:2 -

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• 3:4 -

FYI: “Putting this in contemporary terms, Paul notes three inordinate loves: **narcissism** (love of self), **materialism** (love of money), and **hedonism** (love of pleasure...Pastor Rick Warren said...The first temptation is the temptation ‘*to be*’ (narcissism), the second is the temptation ‘*to feel*’ (hedonism), and the third is the temptation ‘*to have*’ (materialism)...He added that virtually every television commercial is aimed at one of these three temptations. He said he used to ask his kids after each commercial, ‘Which of the three temptations was that commercial?’”
- Platt et al. (185,186)

19. What do you see happening to relationships in 3:2-4?

FYI: "Love of self is the basic sin from which all others flow. The moment man makes his own will and his own desires the centre of life, divine and human relationships are destroyed. Once a man erects himself as his god, obedience to God and charity to men both become impossible. If self is the centre of life, then Christ is banished from life." (Barclay)
- Coleman and Peace (54)

20. Try reading through the list and substituting the opposite traits. With which trait do you struggle the most and need God's power to change you?

21. What makes these it difficult sometimes to spot these people? 3:5 (See Titus 1:16)

- What was Paul's advice to Timothy? 3:5b *How would you reconcile Paul's advice in 3:5 with the advice in 2:25?*
- Why do you think wickedness often takes a "form of godliness"? (2 Corinthians 11:13-14)

FYI: "Apart from the gospel, people are just practicing dead religion. No Christ, no power. People can go to church their whole life...but if they do not have Christ, they do not possess spiritual life!" - Platt et al. ((187)

22. What judgments were made about "religious" people in the following?

- Isaiah 29:13
- Matthew 23:2-7; 27-28

23. What does Scripture say about a lack of love?

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- 1 John 4:8,20

Applying the Word: *Where do you see these characteristics of ungodliness most prevalent in today's society?*

Day 4

Foolishness and Godliness. Read 2 Timothy 3:6-13

24. What tactics do these men use? 3:6a What does the phrase “*worm their way/creep into*” suggest about their methods? Contrast John 18:20.
25. In 3:6b-7, list the phrases that describe the character of the women who were being influenced by these impostors. Why would this make these particular women so vulnerable?

FYI: loaded down with sins “Their consciences were burdened, and thus they gave ready ears to impostors who promised to ease their guilt. Their unconfessed sin stood between them and God and made their reasoning faulty. Their sins, like an especially virulent flu, left them vulnerable to worse diseases.” - R. Kent Hughes (225)

26. Who did Paul use as an example of these ungodly men? See *Exodus 7:10-12,22 8:7* for the account about “*Jannes and Jambre.*”
(*These men are traditionally understood to be Pharaoh’s magicians who opposed Moses and Aaron - their names are not found in scripture but they are mentioned in secular Jewish writings.*)

27. What phrases describe these “these men”? 3:8b

- What is the good news about their folly/foolishness? 3:9 (See Exodus 8:18,19; 9:11)

28. By contrast, what did Timothy know about Paul’s teaching and life? 3:10

- What did he know about Paul’s endurance? 3:11
- What did Timothy know about the Lord? 3:11b (See Psalm 34:19)

FYI: Know about/followed Strong’s NT:3877 *parakoloutheo* ; to follow near, i.e. (figuratively) attend, trace out, conform to

“The literal meaning is ‘to follow alongside, to accompany’”

- R. Kent Hughes (231)

“God has delivered His people throughout the ages. Though He never promises us that this life will be easy, He does promise to be with His people and to rescue them either in this life or by bringing them to glory! As Paul was writing, he was awaiting the ultimate rescue (see 2 Timothy 4:17-18)...Paul is not just giving Timothy an example to follow, he is pointing him to the source of power by which to live.”

- Platt et al. (192)

29. From Acts 20:24, how would you describe Paul's "purpose"? 15. Read through the account of Paul's 1st missionary journey through Antioch, Iconium and Lystra (Acts 13:14 –14:23). If you had been in Timothy's shoes, what would have influenced you the most about Paul's life and example?

30. After listing the trials that he had faced, what did Paul conclude about anyone who lives a godly life? 3:12 (See John 15:18-20)

- What is the consequence of living an ungodly life? 3:13 (See Proverbs 5:22,23; Job 4:8; Proverbs 1:29-32; Galatians 6:7,8)

FYI: "If anyone accepts a set of standards that are different from the world's standards, he is bound to have trouble. And if, as Barclay says, 'Anyone proposes to introduce into his live a loyalty which surpasses all earthly loyalties, then there are bound to be clashes and collisions' Some form of opposition will come if we attempt to witness to a world that hates to be told the truth and loves darkness." - R Kent Hughes (234)

Go from bad to worse "While it is the Christians who are getting persecuted now (and thus seems to be the worse off), they are, in fact, 'in Christ Jesus' and therefore have a glorious future. Furthermore, while 'evil men and impostors' may escape persecution now, all the while they are sinking further and further into ungodliness." - Coleman and Peace (58)

Applying the Word: *Who would you name from your past that had a positive and motivating influence in your walk with God? What about their lifestyle or character impacted you the most?*

Memory verse:
And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.
 2 Timothy 2:24,25