

Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed 2 Timothy 2:14-26

2 Timothy 2:14-26 Introduction

- September 2001: Roof Project, storm, the roof caved in and water came through the whole building.
- Insurance paid out over \$100,000 in damages.
- The contractor was found to be at fault and his insurance had to pay ours and give us a \$500 check to cover our deductible.
- His car insurance also had to pay out, because he wrecked my parked car in the parking lot.

- A roofer in Indiana has to do work that can survive a thunderstorm.
- This particular contractor's work was tested, but did not pass the test.
- If God were to test the work that we do for Him, how would it measure up?
- In this passage Paul encourages Timothy to do the kind of work and be the kind of person who will ultimately pass any test.

2 Timothy 2:14-26 Outline

- I. Be a Diligent Worker in the Word 2:14-18
- II. Be a Sanctified Vessel for Honor 2:19-22
- III. Be a Patient and Humble Teacher 2:23-26

Be a Diligent Worker in the Word 2:14-18

- 2:14 ruin = *katastrophē*
- Overturning, "turning upside down," destruction, demolition – think about our roof caving in on us.
- This is the opposite of "edification" or the "building up" of believers.
- Wars of words within the church can lead to **catastrophic** results.
- Go to great pains to avoid them.

- 2:15 **Be diligent** This is more accurate than the old KJV's "study."
- The word means to "work hard" or "do your best" though in this case it includes working hard in the area of Bible study.
- **Approved** here means "passing the test" or "tested by trial."
- Expect to be "tested by trials" in all your service to the Lord.

- 2:15 **rightly dividing** means "cutting a straight path" or "keeping a straight course."
- Contrary to some people's opinion, the Bible does not say whatever we want it to say or mean whatever we want it to mean.
- It contains a very specific message about salvation through Jesus Christ.
- It is important that we constantly keep that message clear.

- 2:16 Some Bible discussion amounts to nothing more than empty chatter – which leads only to more ungodliness. Avoid it.
- 2:17-18 Paul gives one example currently arising in his day:
 - **"The resurrection is already past."**
 - This would mean there was no resurrection to look forward to in the future.

- 2:17-18
 - **Fact #1:**A literal, bodily resurrection of the dead did not appeal to Greek thought.
 - There would have been a great temptation to “demythologize” this aspect of the gospel to make it more acceptable to the culture.
 - **Fact #2:**The resurrection of the dead is an inseparable part of the Christian faith.
 - See **1 Corinthians 15:35-54**

Be a Sanctified Vessel for Honor 2:19-22

- 2:19 Sometimes the servants of the Lord can look so bad and the servants of the devil can look so good that it’s hard for us to tell the difference.
- See **Nahum 1:7** and **Isaiah 52:11**
2:20 **honor and dishonor** – the fine china and the trash can.
- 2:21 **from the latter** = “from what is dishonorable”
- Sometimes dishes need to be cleaned before you can eat off of them.
- We need to cleanse or separate ourselves from dishonorable habits or practices so that we can become vessels for honor.
- **useful to the Master** – used of both Mark and Onesimus – **2 Tim 4:11, Philemon 11**
- 2:22 Think of Joseph in Egypt running away from Potiphar’s unfaithful wife.
- Timothy might have had to avoid the bar scene in Ephesus or certain ancient social networking websites.
- Other “youthful lusts”: selfish ambition, self-centeredness, conceit, inflexibility
- Growing out of these is essential to maturity.

Be a Patient and Humble Teacher 2:23-26

- 2:23 **ignorant** = “without instruction,” “uneducated” or “untaught”
- Sometimes the least teachable people in religious circles are also the most vocal with their opinions.
- Don’t be one of those.
- Be teachable, be a learner or “disciple” and you will also become less divisive.
- 2:23 It is important to differentiate here between “strife” and “controversy.”
- Jesus was **controversial**.
- He said and did things which defied the religious establishment of His day.
- We will probably also create controversy at times if we truly preach the gospel, believe the Bible and attempt to live out its principles.
- 2:23 Our personal need to win an argument, be in charge, or be right can generate **strife**.
- Look back at **v.14**
- **Strife** never enhances the climate for communicating God’s love or developing human relationships.
- Therefore, **strife** is to be avoided.
- 2:24 **patient** “patiently enduring evil” (ESV)
- “patient with difficult people” (NLT)
- The idea is that God’s servant must be able to “bear evil without resentment” (Wright)

- 2:25-26 Timothy's goal needed to be to win the heart of his hearers rather than win the squabble.
- It is possible to disagree without being disagreeable, to contend for the faith without being contentious, to argue a point without being argumentative.
- Timothy had to correct people who were in error without being mean.

2 Timothy 2:14-26 Conclusions

- If you are a Christian, it is possible someone sees you as a teacher of the Christian faith.
 - You may teach Sunday School or lead some kind of Bible study.
 - You may have children who need to learn about the Lord from you.
 - You may also not realize that someone is watching and wondering if the Jesus you believe in can be trusted.
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- You now have an important responsibility.
 - Your work will be tested by trial.
 - Before God, and with His help, you must be determined to pass any and every test that comes your way.
 - You need to be diligent to increase your knowledge of Scripture and understanding of Christian doctrine.
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- You also need to watch your life and eliminate anything in it that might be considered dishonorable.
 - People are judging Jesus Christ according to the standard they see in you.
 - Finally, if someone sees you as a teacher, you need to be able to correct those who are in error without simply arguing about religion.