

# The Household of the Living God

## Perseverance

### “Vessels for Designed Use”

2 Timothy 2:20-26

#### I. Clean doctrine (20-21)

Verses 20 and 21 are helpful transition for us

Paul uses the metaphor of home furnishings to explain the difference between what is common and what is Christian.

*In a great house*

In these contexts, there are many vessels:

- Some of precious metals and used for honorable things
- Some of common material and used for dishonorable things

<sup>21</sup> *Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable,*

To be cleansed then is not justification but doctrine.

- *1 Timothy 1:18–19 This charge I entrust to you . . . that you wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,*
- *1 Timothy 6:3–4 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions*
- *2 Timothy 3:16–17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching . . . and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy,*

In the whole story of the bible, this transformation from the common to the uncommon is foundational. *Romans 12:1–2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

#### II. Useful living (22-26)

Text work:

Timothy and his Ephesian church would be useful vessels as they held clean or unstained doctrine.

Paul explains the specifics with two word pictures:

A. Flee youthful passions (v 22a)

B. Having nothing to do with the Ephesian heresies (23)

Today, many disagreements feel foundational rather than peripheral. When people don't share foundations, discussion becomes frustrating and circular.

This is how Timothy is to deal with his opponents (25–26).

- *Kind to everyone*
- *Able to teach*
- *Patiently enduring evil*
- *Correcting opponents with gentleness*

Why are these Christ-like tact's so important?

*God may perhaps grant your opponent's repentance*

If they would be granted repentance, and *come to the knowledge of truth they will come to their senses*

The key to our patient and kind perspective is found in vs 26 - *For the devil has captured them to do His will.*

Do we embrace the gospel itself as a promise of regeneration and not just forgiveness? (Compare Romans 1:28–29 with 1 Corinthians 2:14–16)

Don't jettison biblical doctrine. The word is not bound, and its power includes the power to deliver your opponents from the snare of the devil and therefore their nonsense. By clean doctrine from the word, we are useful in this present generation.

Conclusion:

Takeaway truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Christ Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

As a disciple of Christ, I should: \_\_\_\_\_