
And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil.
(2 Timothy 2:22)

I. Vessels of Honor

- a. The "great house" is the professing church.
- b. Paul makes a distinction between true teachers of the Word and false teachers (2 Tim 2:16-18) in God's house.
- c. A faithful pastor/minister is like a gold or silver vessel that brings honor to Jesus Christ.
 1. The head of the house will display their most valuable and beautiful utensils to get honor from them. (remember the *good dishes*?)
- d. False teachers are like wood and clay. They are utensils of dishonor that will not survive the test of fire (1 Cor 3:13).
- e. Also, the Lord's house on earth, is a mixed company of true believers, comparable to gold and silver, and lukewarm believers, comparable to wood and earthenware.
- f. If we want to be instruments for honorable purposes in God's house, we must keep ourselves from the polluting influences of the world. (Read Matthew 23:25-26)
- g. Also, honorable vessels must not be contaminated by dishonorable vessels. Paul encouraged Timothy to separate himself from false teachers. (v.21)
- h. Vessels of honor do not get caught up in worldly things, but seek to remain undefiled.
- i. God is always seeking to put His precious vessels of honor on display for the world to see.
- j. Are you a vessel of honor ready to be used by God?

II. Flee, Follow, Fight (v.21-23)

- a. True transformation is balanced with fleeing and following. We flee sin and follow after righteousness.
- b. If we are not balanced we will be isolated instead of separated/unified. Some believers can become isolated because of a wrong view of separation.
 1. We are called to be holy (separated), then to be unified in the Lord's holiness.
- c. God seeks to use vessels that are empty, clean and available.

III. God's Servant (v.24-26)

- a. Every Christian must in some fight to defend and preserve the faith. Paul is saying do not argue with a fool or the philosophical high-minded regarding gospel when you know the truth.
- b. Some people are naturally difficult to teach. They enjoy foolish arguments that create strife.
- c. God's servant does not always have an easy time teaching the Word due to the opposition of Satan confusing the hearts.
- d. Until you have experienced it, you have no idea how difficult it is to impart spiritual truth to some people.
- e. The attitude of the Lord's servant is that of "deliberate patience." Everyone will not receive you – be patient. Everyone will not understand you – be patient.
- f. God's servant must consistently adorn their Christian teaching with Christ-like character you will encounter opponents and "the disagreeables." (III. "Resistant Weeds")
- g. Ignore the strife, but not the people. Ministers must patiently work to rescue the ignorant/resistant from Satan's captivity. Satan is a liar and he captures people through lies.
- h. Are you a faithful servant ready to be used by God?