



“VESSELS OF HONOR” (II Timothy 2:14-26)

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v.13 God’s character does not change. James 1: 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. Hebrews 13: 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

It is our character that needs to be molded into His likeness. In this passage Paul gives us some very practical (inspired) advice in that regard. First of all he tells Timothy...

I. RENEW YOUR MIND WITH TRUTH (v.14a)

- Paul instructs Timothy to keep saying the same things again and again. I’ve been saying the same things over and over again for years. I know what the CC “old timers” are thinking – “We know!”
- Rom.12:2; II Peter 1:12-15 (context)

II. DON’T QUARREL ABOUT WORDS (v.14b)

- “quarrel” = 3054. logomacheo, log-om-akh-eh'-o; from a comp. of G3056 and G3164; to be disputatious (on trifles):--strive about words.
- “It is so easy to become a theological crank – so readily are we engrossed with questions that are of no supreme moment. Life is too brief and too busy for the wasting of brain and heart on what is not formative of character. When a world awaits evangelization, it ill becomes us to be forever either sauntering or hurrying along doctrinal byways. Keep to the highways. Be true to the greater verities. Emphasize essentials, not incidentals...” (Dr. Dinsdale Young).
- Arguments over eternal security, spiritual gifts (especially speaking in tongues), modes of baptism, Christian music, church dress, styles of worship, etc.

III. STAY AWAY FROM GODLESS CHATTER/WANDERING FROM THE TRUTH (vv.15-19)

- Be a Berean; stick to the clear Word of God; new, not true; true, not new.

- This is chatter that entertains false teachings like that of Hymenaeus and Alexander.

IV. CLEANSE YOURSELF FROM THINGS THAT WOULD KEEP YOU FROM BEING A VESSEL OF HONOR FOR THE LORD (vv.20-21)

- Noble: KJV = honor; 5092. time, tee-may'; from G5099; a value, i.e. money paid, or (concr. and collect.) valuables; by anal. esteem (esp. of the highest degree), or the dignity itself:--honor, precious, price, some.
- Ignoble: KJV = dishonor; 819. atimia, at-ee-mee'-ah; from G820; infamy, i.e. (subj.) comparative indignity, (obj.) disgrace:--dishonor, reproach, shame, vile.
- Note: A vessel of honor is one that is useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.
- Illus: Fine china, etc.; bone china (strong enough to stand on!), crystal glasses, lead crystal bowl, sterling silver utensils...paper plates, a spittoon.

V. FLEE THE EVIL DESIRES OF YOUTH (vv.22-26)

- Youthful lusts = youthful longings
- I Cor.13: 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.
- Note: Timothy was probably about 35 years old when Paul wrote this letter. This is not just a word for young people. Older people can still have youthful desires.

A. Foolish And Stupid Arguments

- “foolish” = 3474. moros, mo-ros'; prob. from the base of G3466; dull or stupid (as if shut up), i.e. heedless, (mor.) blockhead, (appar.) absurd:--fool (-ish, X -ishness).
- “Stupid” = 521. apaideutos, ap-ah'ee-dyoo-tos; from G1 (as a neg. particle) and a der. of G3811; uninstructed, i.e. (fig.) stupid:--unlearned.
- The things kids argue over; If you want to see adults act like kids in this regard, just watch TV news talk shows, etc.

B. Always Wanting To Play, Be Entertained

- My 2 favorite classes in school were lunch and recess (later P.E.).
- A youthful temptation is to shirk responsibility in order to play, have fun...

C. Separation From Wise Counsel

- Do you think any of the peers of the Prodigal were giving him wise counsel? Do you think Joseph's peers in Egypt would have advised him to run away from the opportunity for sexual pleasure (out of the will of God)?
- See I Kings 12: 3-14, 16-17.
- Note: That's one reason I do not want to see the same age groups always together in church meetings (esp. small groups). My wife and I always had varying age groups in our small groups...

D. Freedom From Authority/Submission To Authority

- All the things you want to do but are "not old enough" (Jairus and Audra not tall enough to ride go-karts by themselves), or your parents won't let you.
- Prodigal Son; Luke 15: 12 **The younger one** said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.
- The context of "The Lord knows who are his..." is Numbers 16. Tell story of Korah's rebellion. The wickedness of Korah and his followers was first of all a failure to respect and submit to God ordained authority. Secondly, Korah and those with him sought a position for themselves outside of God's will for their lives. Their actions brought them into conflict with their brothers, and the peace and unity they once enjoyed was now destroyed.

E. Desire For More "Stuff"

- "Can I have ____?" (In the store from the time they are little.)
- Prov.30: 15 "The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry. "There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, 'Enough!': 16 the grave, the barren womb, land, which is never satisfied with water, and fire, which never says, 'Enough!' (And parents could add a fifth – our kids!).
- Luke 15: 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

F. Sexual Temptation

- Discovering and desiring the opposite sex.
- See Prov.7: 7-10.
- Joseph (very young when Potiphar's wife sought to seduce him)...Flee sexual immorality; Samson...

VI. PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, LOVE AND PEACE

- Righteousness is simply doing what's right.
- Faith involves fixing our eyes on things that are unseen, things eternal.
- Love of course means I'm not just living for myself, but living to serve others.
- And peace means I am not living in conflict with others (Rom.12:18).

CONCLUSION

- Are you a vessel of honor, or of dishonor? Have you been majoring on the minors? (theological debates that do not promote godly character, but rather produce quarrels, division). Are you rightly dividing the Word? Have you wandered from the truth? Have you removed yourself from submission to God ordained authority? Do you seek counsel from older, godly servants of God? Are you caught up in some youthful desire? Is "play" and entertainment your priority, or are you regularly serving the Lord by serving others in some capacity? Are you seeking satisfaction in life by accumulating more "stuff?" Have you given in to sexual temptation?