



“Becoming & Remaining A Vessel Of Honor” (II Timothy 3:1-17)

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Intro: Last week the subject of our text was becoming vessels of honor. This week was easy to title (see above). It's one thing to become a vessel of honor, it's another to remain a vessel of honor, especially in a world that is spiraling downward morally and spiritually. How am I going to remain true to Christ and not be polluted by this present world? Three essentials are mentioned in our text for today. Let's look at the first.

I. STAY AWAY FROM BAD COMPANY(vv1-9)

- vv.1-5a In summary, they are religious, but they have no real connection with God. Their character is carnal.
- v.6 They take advantage of people, especially men toward women. Some scholars suggest they were after these women for their money, and while that may be true, there is no doubt in my mind that the most natural conclusion as to what they were after is not money, but the satisfying of their carnal cravings. See I Thess.4:3-8; I Tim.5:1b-2; Heb.13:4. Man who brought his girlfriend down front and asked one of our pastors to pray that God would bless their relationship...
- v.7 They are always learning but never acknowledge the truth. These are people of intelligence, but without spiritual wisdom and discernment.
- v.8 They oppose the truth.
 - Hosea 9: 7...Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired man a maniac.
 - Jannes and Jambres were Pharaoh's two top sorcerers (magicians).
- v.9 Their folly will be made clear; What was it that made Janne and Jambres folly clear? See Ex.7:8-8:19, note 7:11-12, 22; 8:7, 18-19. One thing Satan cannot do, and that is create life from death. This becomes extremely practical in light of II Tim.3. Despite the form of godliness in these people's lives, the power of God is not evident. See Eph.2:1ff; II Cor.5:17. Resurrection life does not just make someone religious, it creates new life in them. They go from loving self, money, pleasure, to loving God, from being boastful and

proud to humble, from abusive to loving, from disobedient to their parents to submissive and obedient, from being ungrateful to overflowing with thankfulness.

- Go back to v.5b Paul commands Timothy not to hang out with people like this. Bad company corrupts good character. My mother used to tell me how concerned she was that I was hanging out with the wrong crowd. One day I looked her in the eyes at the kitchen table and said, "Mama, I **am** the wrong crowd!" No doubt we have some moms/parents here today that have a child hanging out with the wrong crowd. Pray for them. Perhaps you are that child...broad is the road that leads to destruction...lead in salvation prayer...

II. EMULATE GODLY ROLE MODELS (vv.10-15)

- Emulate: imitate zealously.
- Continue to follow the godly role models God has put in your life. God challenged me personally on this point, and I ended up taking some time for self-examination to make sure I am being a good role model for my family, for you, and as a testimony to the world around me. Read the 9 characteristics from the examination. Note: I asked my wife if any were not true.
- Paul mentions not only himself, but others Timothy had learned from. Our next verse will tell us two people that would include. Read verse 15. See II Tim.1:5. Timothy had a godly mother, and a godly grandmother, and it was their influence that made a godly impact upon his life. It was not just their godly example, but from a very young age they had taught young Timothy the Word of God. And that is our third and final essential for continuing to be a vessel of honor for the Lord.

III. SATURATE YOUR LIFE WITH THE WORD OF GOD (vv.16-17)

- v.15 Timothy was taught the Scriptures from the time he was very young. The two greatest things a parent can do for their children is to live a godly life before them, and from a very young age teach them the Scriptures. See Gen.18:19; Deut.4:9; 6:4-9; 11:18-21; 31:9-13; Psalm 78:3-7.
- Psalm 119 is acrostic in its structure. An acrostic is a poem or other form of writing in which the first letter, syllable or word of each line, paragraph or other recurring feature in the text spells out a word or a message. In Psalm 119, each of its twenty-two sections begins with a different letter in the 22-letter Hebrew alphabet. Moreover the 8 verses in each section start with that same letter. This alphabetical pattern of A followed by B is lost when translating to English simply because the English alphabet not only has 26 characters but in Hebrew the equivalent letter to B is not followed by C. Nor is it possible to translate each verse into English with the same alphabetical character and still

maintain the correct meaning. But the message to us in the Hebrew is very clear. God's Word provides for us the ABC's of life. Or, to put it another way, God's Word is everything from A to Z.

- Deut.8: 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
- Deut.32:47 They are not just idle words for you--they are your life.
- Joshua 1: 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
- The Word of God is a lamp to my feet (daily direction), and a light to my path (long term direction). The Word rebukes me when I am going the wrong direction, have the wrong attitude, etc. etc. I also use the Word to rebuke the devil when he tempts me. And the Word corrects. The Greek here means "to make straight." God straightens out our life by bringing it in line with His Word. Finally, the Word of God trains in righteousness. See James 1:22-25. Training is the key to growth/maturity. See I Peter 2:2-3.
- A critic once wrote a letter to a magazine saying, "Over the years, I suppose I've gone to church more than 1,000 times, and I can't remember the specific content of even one sermon over those many years. What good was it to go to church 1,000 times?" The next week, someone wrote back: "Over the past many years, I have eaten more than 1,000 meals prepared by my wife. I cannot remember the specific menu of any of those meals. But they nourished me along the way, and without them, I would be a much different man!" The Bible will do its spiritual work in us, if we will let it.

CONCLUSION

- Hey, Christian, are you hanging out with the wrong crowd? Bad company corrupts good character. Find some new friends...
- Are you following godly role models?
- Are you saturating your life with the Word of God?