

2nd Timothy Chapter 2 -- John Karmelich

1. Of all the positive attributes the world needs more of, I would list the top priority as courage.
 - a) "Fear" prevents more accomplishments any attribute I can think of:
 - i) The fear of not being liked for an action.
 - ii) The fear of failing.
 - iii) The fear of being intimidated.
 - iv) The fear of not being as great as my parents or my mentors.
 - v) The fear of not being to accomplish what my friends or my hero's can do.
 - b) My favorite biblical character who *should* have been intimidated by fear is Joshua.
 - i) Joshua was given the wonderful task of being the next leader after Moses. ☺
 - a) Moses parted the Red Sea.
 - b) Moses led millions of slaves out of Egypt.
 - c) Moses stood up to the greatest world leader of that day.
 - d) Moses was trained to be the leader of the (then) Egyptian Empire.
 - e) Now at Moses death, Joshua is told he has to take over.
 - ii) Would you find that intimidating?
 - a) How could Joshua ever be able to be as great as Moses?
 - b) How could Joshua ever be compared to Moses?
 - iii) So what were the first words of encouragement God gave Joshua?
 - a) "Be strong and courageous!" (Joshua 1:6a, NIV)
 - b) In fact, Joshua gets told that statement 4 times just in the first chapter!
2. Gee John, that's neat. What does any of this have to do with 2nd Timothy Chapter 2?
 - a) Boy, am I glad you asked that question! ☺
 - b) Timothy was in "the same boat" as Joshua.
 - c) Timothy knew that his mentor, his hero, his spiritual father was about to die.
 - d) It was now Timothy's time to be the leader.
 - e) That is a scary thing.
 - i) There is a realization in everyone's life when it is your turn.
 - a) Sometimes it comes when your parents pass away.
 - b) Sometimes it comes when you first live out on your own.
 - c) Sometimes it comes when there is a major decision to be made in your life and you realize there is no trusted friend to turn to for advice. You must rely upon God-given wisdom to make that decision.
 - f) Chapter 2 is a great Chapter to read when those fears-of-life come at you.
 - i) It is a great chapter to study when you need the courage to step forward in faith.
 - ii) Timothy was reading about his mentor's impending death.
 - a) Timothy was facing false teachers in his church.
 - b) Timothy in Ephesus was surrounded by an immoral and corrupt world.
 - c) Any of this sound familiar? ☺
 - g) Paul was aware of Timothy's fears. It is hinted at in both letters. Both of these letters have lots of commands and recommendations for Timothy.
 - i) An interesting word-study to do with Chapter 2 is just to read all the verbs.
 - a) It reads like a general giving orders, like a coach before a big game, or fill in your favorite analogy. Here are some examples:
 - b) Verse 1 says, "be strong", Verse 14 says, "remind them", Verse 15 says, "be diligent", Verse 22 says, "flee youthful lusts".
 - ii) The point is to notice the "command-style" of all these verbs that are used.

- h) The opening words of this chapter are to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
 - i) We'll discuss the implications of that in a second.
 - ii) The big-picture idea to see is that through God we can overcome:
 - a) Our fears of being intimidated.
 - b) Our fears of not-being-liked for the decisions we have to make.
 - c) Our fears of not knowing what to do when our mentors are gone.
 - d) Our fears that our situations around us are too overwhelming for us.
3. With that introduction, it's a perfect time to transition to Verse 1: You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- a) If I had to pick a verse to memorize from this chapter, it would be this one.
 - i) Hey, it's a short one. It should be easy. ☺
 - ii) I have to admit I spent more time thinking about this verse this week, than any other in the chapter.
 - iii) The implications of this verse are staggering.
 - b) Let me start by teaching what Paul does not say:
 - i) He does not say, "Be strong in your self-discipline ability to pray regularly".
 - ii) He does not say, "Be strong in your daily Bible reading habits".
 - iii) He does not say, "Be strong in your service to other Christians.
 - c) Paul says to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
 - i) There are wonderful books available on the topic of God's grace.
 - a) It is difficult, if not impossible to summarize this idea in a few sentences.
 - b) That of course, won't stop me from trying. ☺
 - ii) Let me simply pass on what God has taught me this week on this topic.
 - d) Let's start with what we are as human beings: "Dust". I prefer the synonym, "dirt".
 - i) God told Adam after the "fruit-incident" with Eve:
 - a) "For dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19b, NIV).
 - ii) Basically, we are dirt.
 - a) The same elements that make up dirt make up a human being.
 - b) God created us out of the dust of the ground.
 - c) Our bodies eventually decay, and become dust, or dirt once again.
 - iii) When Adam & Eve sinned, God have could have wiped them out completely, and us along with them.
 - iv) It is by God's unmerited love, that we exist and we can be forgiven of our sins.
 - v) God is love in its perfect form, that he gives us life, and life abundantly.
 - a) God wants to bless our life.
 - b) We can't get more blessings by how many good deeds we do.
 - c) That would be glorifying ourselves and not God.
 - d) God wants to bless our life because that is what God wants to do.
 - (1) That blessing begins with accepting Jesus as payment for our sins so God can bless our lives.
 - e) A big part of the Christian maturity is to regularly examine in what way do they trust their *own* ability and self-discipline versus trusting in God's grace to us?
 - (1) God does not work on a "tit-for-tat" basis.
 - (2) We don't get more blessings because we prayed harder today.
 - (a) One has to be careful with that last statement. Additional prayer, service for God etc., has blessings for our lives. The danger is to depend upon that blessing and say, "OK, God, you owe me because I did this or that."

- e) Which leads us back to Verse 1: “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”, period.
 - i) In terms of our “Christian walk”, which is our daily dependence upon God, I believe the two most important statements made in the Bible are:
 - a) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; (Psalm 110:10a, NIV)
 - b) “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2nd Timothy 1, NIV)
 - ii) That combination, to a Christian, keeps our focus on the eternal perspective.
 - iii) Most Christians who have been around for a while can tell of at least one devout mature Christian who has “fallen” or a major pastor who has resigned in disgrace.
 - a) I have found the root-cause of those incidents come from either failing to continually trust in God’s grace or lacking a “healthy” fear of God.
 - b) God holds us accountable for our actions. We are his witnesses. A fear of God is not the fear of being “zapped”, but the fear that we will fail to be his witnesses before Him.
 - c) I have seen people who do all the things Christians are supposed to do and still being given over to some great sin. What is the reason? They are trusting in “those” things they are supposed to do and not God’s grace.
 - f) Getting back to Timothy, I believe that is what Paul is trying to communicate here.
 - i) Paul is urging Timothy that his strength as a pastor, as a leader, as a God-fearing Christian must continually stem from God’s grace and nothing else.
 - a) All the habits one develops as a Christian must stem from God’s grace and not our self-disciplined ability.
 - b) This is how we can overcome our fears and have boldness for Christ.
 - c) This is how we can stand up to do whatever God has called us to do.
 - d) Personally, I know of no other thrill in life greater than to be used by God.
 - e) That thrill comes when we make ourselves available to God for service.
 - f) But we must remember, it starts with God’s grace.
 - g) His unmerited favor of love to us, His free gifts he gives us as believers that is the root of all we can do for him.
 - ii) Let me sum all of this up with another quote from Paul: (2nd Corinthians 12:9, NIV)
 - a) “But he (God) said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”
4. Believe it or not, we made it to Verse 2 ☺: And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.
- a) Timothy was a traveling companion of Paul on his missionary journeys.
 - b) Timothy heard Paul speak to other pastors and elders many times as well as himself.
 - c) Paul is saying to Timothy, “Hey don’t just rely on what I’m saying in this letter, it is about all the things I have taught you over the years. It is about all the things you have heard me say as a teacher.”
 - d) The Word of God is meant to be past on from generation to generation. The Gospel message is never meant to be exclusive property to any one person or teacher.
 - e) Paul is teaching, “pass it on Timothy, because my time is almost up. It is time for you, as well as other Godly men I have trained, to lead the next generation.”
 - i) Part of our responsibility as Christians is to raise up the next generation.
 - f) One of the amazing things to think about is how Christianity has survived for centuries.
 - i) It has survived through violent oppression, through emperors, through good and bad kings, through good and bad Christian leaders, through wars, through prosperity, depressions, through the most immoral of conditions, etc.
 - a) You name it, Christianity has survived through it.
 - b) Yet despite two thousand years of history, the Word of God has survived.

- c) A great thank-you goes to the Godly “Paul’s and Timothy’s” through the centuries who have paved the way with their own blood so that the Word of God may continue to another generation.
5. Verse 3: Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.
- a) Paul will now go on to give 3 examples of how to be strong witness for Jesus.
- i) All three examples are occupations that were common during that time era.
- a) The first example is that of a soldier.
- b) The second is an athlete.
- c) The third is a farmer.
- b) Paul says in Verses 3 and 4 that being a Christian can be compared to the life of a soldier.
- i) Let’s face it; life in any army in anytime in history is not a life of luxury.
- ii) One does not join the army for the financial benefits.
- iii) One joins an army out of a sense of duty. There is a “calling” to defend and support one’s country.
- c) That is the idea Paul is preaching here. Paul is asking Timothy to deal with hardship because that is the price to be paid to be a Christian.
- d) Whether or not you like it, you are a “soldier” in warfare.
- i) If you are being a good witness for Jesus, there are spiritual forces opposing you.
- ii) “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:9 NIV).
- iii) Timothy struggling with forces outside the church (immoral world, those trying to kill Christians) and those within the church (false teachers).
- iv) Did you ever stop and think that there are evil forces behind those attacks?
- v) To use one of my favorite quotes, “If you don’t think Satan is real, try opposing him for awhile”.
- e) Let’s get back to these verses. What is the motivation for dealing with all this hardship?
- i) Paul says in Verse 3 it is “to please his commanding officer.”
- a) If you have turned your life over to Jesus, He is your commanding officer!
- b) I stated earlier I know of no greater purpose in life than to be used by God.
- c) One must think of God as our commanding officer.
- (1) Remember we pray to God the Father.
- (2) We pray through Jesus, who paid the price for us.
- (3) The Holy Spirit guides us in our lives in service for God the Father.
- d) We serve God out of gratitude for our salvation.
- e) We serve God by His grace that He has given us for the ability of service.
6. Verse 5: Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.
- a) Notice the first word “similarly”. Paul is using more than one occupational example as models (i.e., “similarly”) for us as to how to live the Christian life.
- b) The next example Paul gives is one of an athlete.
- c) Paul focuses on the rules of competition.
- d) To paraphrase Paul, “there are no short-cuts in being a Christian”.
- i) Let’s face it. Being a good Christian is hard work. It can be dull at times. It requires the discipline of an athlete.
- ii) A great athlete is one who is obsessed during times of practice prior to the actual sporting event. Usually, nobody is cheering on the athlete during practice.
- iii) Being used of God often requires a lot of unappreciated and unnoticed hard work. Other than God himself, our service to God often goes unnoticed.

- iv) Paul focuses on the “rules”. So what “rules” are there for being a Christian?
 - a) I don’t have a one-sentence answer for you here. It is essentially all the lessons one can learn through a lifetime of being a Christian.
 - b) The rules are what God commands you do in obedience to Him.
 - c) If you don’t know, ask God. You may be surprised by the answer! ☺
 - d) I believe one of the greatest prayers one can pray is “How can I be of service to you? What would you like me to specifically pray for today? Who would you like me to help today?”
 - (1) I believe God *delights* in answering that prayer.
 - (2) Our job is to give glory to God.
 - (3) The athlete-reference used here, focuses on the “rules” that God commands and teaches us through his Word.

- 7. Verse 6: The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.
 - a) The final example of how a Christian is to live is that of a farmer.
 - b) The emphasis here is that the farmer is the first to receive the crops he gets.
 - i) Does that mean the farmer gets the best of the produce he plants? Probably.
 - c) I believe the idea here is that the suffering we go through as a Christian is worth it.
 - d) The eternal rewards we receive for the endurance and patience needed to be Christian far outweighs whatever suffering we must go through.
 - e) The rewards here and now are often beneficial.
 - i) For example, for me as a teacher, I probably get far more out of these lessons than those of you who read them.
 - ii) The best way to learn the Bible is to teach it. That is a big part of my motivation for these studies. God has blessed my life and matured me in so many ways due to these studies. That is how I receive “the first share of crops”.
 - iii) For others it may be seeing the joy on people’s faces as they work in service for others. For others it may be through some artistic gift or as a musician. For others, it may be raising Godly children and seeing them grow in the Lord.
 - iv) Others benefit from the gifts God has given us, but we also can take joy in our service to God, whatever it may be.
 - v) For some, especially those who were called to be martyrs for the faith, they may not see the benefit until they get to heaven.

- 8. Verse 7: Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.
 - a) Hopefully, that is what I have been doing for the last 4-5 pages. ☺
 - b) Even with all I have said, there is still far more that God can give you insight on these verses and occupational examples.
 - c) God calls on us to meditate on the Bible. That simply means to think about it.
 - i) That is what Paul is calling Timothy to do with these ideas, to think about them.
 - ii) Hey, I got four pages out of them. Imagine what God can do for you! ☺

- 9. Verse 8: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,
 - a) Paul says this is my gospel. This is our gospel too, not just Paul’s.
 - b) Paul emphasizes two things:
 - i) 1) Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - a) The idea is that we serve a living God, not one who is dead.
 - b) God the Father raised Jesus from the dead as validation that his sacrifice was sufficient as payment for our sins.
 - c) The emphasis is on the God-aspect of Jesus.
 - ii) 2) A descendant of David.
 - a) King David was promised that a descendant of his would rule forever. (See 2nd Samuel 7:12-14).
 - b) The emphasis is on the humanity-aspect of Jesus.

- iii) Only an entity that is 100% God and 100% man can relate to our suffering as well as be a perfect sacrifice of sins on our behalf. A perfect sacrifice must be perfect. It must be God himself to perfectly pay for our sins.
- 10. End of Verse 8 and Verse 9: This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.
 - a) Visualize Paul in a dark jail cell. Maybe he was alone, or maybe full of prisoners.
 - b) I suspect by this date in history, Paul may have been notorious as a Christian leader.
 - c) He was probably chained to the walls or other Roman guards.
 - d) His only privilege was the ability to dictate a letter to Timothy.
 - e) His horrible crime for this punishment? Preaching the gospel.
 - f) I love how Paul compares his chains to the lack of chains of the Gospel message.
 - g) I can give you lots of historical examples of how the Gospel has survived history.
 - i) Among my favorites is that of 20th Century (communist) Russia and China.
 - ii) During the era of communism, they did their utmost to stamp out Christianity.
 - a) The gospel message was banned. Atheism was taught in schools.
 - b) Despite generations of communism, the gospel stands in both places today.
 - c) After the fall of communism, the message of Jesus still rings out.
 - d) There was even an evangelistic movement in the 1990's through Russia and China that is spreading today.
 - e) You can't kill the gospel. People have tried for 2,000 years. The more the persecution has existed, the more it has flourished.
 - h) I love this quote about Jesus: "I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."—Napoleon
 - i) I end with another famous quote, "'Scripture is like a lion. Who ever heard of defending a lion? Just turn it loose; it will defend itself.'" Charles Spurgeon
- 11. Verse 10: Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.
 - a) When Paul says, "the elect" this is referring to those who will be saved.
 - b) There is a classical debate among Christians that has to do with our free will in choosing to accept Jesus for our salvation versus being "pre-destined" by God for salvation, because God knows all things and God cannot learn.
 - i) In this verse, God's "pre-determined knowledge" of who is and who isn't going to be saved is being emphasized in the statement "the elect".
 - ii) Yet in the next verse, it says, "If we died with him (Jesus), we'll also live with him.
 - a) That verse teaches that we are involved in the decision.
 - iii) People spend lifetimes debating this issue. I believe the Bible teaches both, and it is difficult, if not impossible to reconcile. That doesn't mean one is to ignore the issue, but just to see with a sense of "balance" between two extreme viewpoints.
 - c) Back to the verse: Paul says he "endures everything" for the sake of those who are saved. That should be the attitude of all Christians.
 - i) There are times in life where we have to give up our rights or give up our desires strictly for the purpose of helping others see the eternal benefits of turning over their lives to Christ. Christianity was never designed to be an exclusive club. God the Father wants all to repent and turn to him through Jesus (See 1st Tim. 2:4)

- d) Paul teaches the same concept in his 1st Letter to the Corinthians:
- i) Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible...To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (1st Cor. 9:18, 22 NIV)
12. Verse 11: Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;
- a) Verses 11, 12 and 13 are in a poetic rhythm format, which leads most commentators to believe that this was either an early hymn or some sort of early apostle's creed.
 - b) The first of these 3 stanza's are: If we died with him, we will also live with him;
 - i) Notice the "died" is past tense. It is not about our future body-death.
 - ii) When you accept Jesus into your heart, you are asking him to "take over". It is the 100% death of your will vs. what God wants for your life.
 - a) Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34b-35, NIV).
 - (1) "Taking up your cross" meant death and death now.
 - (2) Think about the combination of "taking up your cross" and following Jesus. That is the idea of "spiritual" death of our will.
 - iii) The maturity process for a Christian is to constantly grow and discover God's will for your life and moment by moment, turn over your desires for His desires.
13. Verse 12: If we endure, we will also reign with him.
- a) I take the view that as long as you believe in Jesus you cannot lose your salvation.
 - i) Other Christians, disagree, but they have every right to be wrong. ☺
 - b) If one believes in Jesus, and then changes their life where they continually and habitually deny Jesus as God, I do believe you can lose your salvation.
 - c) With that disclaimer said, the Bible clearly teaches there are rewards in heaven.
 - i) Paul himself teaches and emphasizes this in both 1st and 2nd Timothy.
 - d) First and foremost, this verse refers to our eternal salvation.
 - i) Remember that during this time, believers were tortured and killed.
 - ii) Paul is reminding Timothy to publicly declare his belief in Jesus, even at the point of death. The reward for this is to reign with Jesus.
 - e) It then leads to the question, "if everyone is in heaven, who are we reigning "over"?"
 - i) This verse supports the idea of a literal 1,000-year millennium where Christ rules over the earth from the earth. That is what Revelation Chapter 20 teaches.
 - ii) Roman Catholics and some Protestants do not believe in a literal reign of Jesus from earth. That view is, "Jesus comes back, we all go to heaven, end of story.
 - a) The problem with that view is the question of us "reigning".
 - b) During this 1,000-year period, many people will survive the just-ended 7-year tribulation. Those that survive will repopulate the earth. We rule with Jesus during that time period.
14. Verse 13, Part 1: If we disown him, he will also disown us;
- a) I stated early that if you accept Jesus, and then truly and habitually deny Jesus as God for the rest of your life, you are not saved.
 - i) That concept is not talking about living the Christian life, having a bad day and denying Jesus.
 - ii) This is about permanently changing your view.
 - b) The issue here is not "how much you sinned". I believe one can sin a lot, still accept Jesus, and go to heaven. You're rewards in heaven might be minimal, but you are still saved. Maybe you'll be sweeping up for eternity. ☺ (Yes, that's a joke.)

15. Remainder of Verse 13: if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.
 - a) To paraphrase, if we deny Jesus, He won't go away.
 - b) God remains faithful in his promise of eternal damnation just as He remains faithful in his promise of eternal salvation. That is the idea behind this verse.
16. Verse 14: Keep reminding them of these things.
 - a) What things? The things Paul has been talking about in this chapter and this letter.
 - b) Our problem is we have a short memory.
 - c) The problem of Timothy's church is that they were facing a very-visible Roman army telling them to deny Jesus declare Caesar as God.
 - i) Its hard for us imagine this lifestyle living in a country that allows Christianity.
 - d) We have to remind ourselves of this to keep our focus on God and not our problems.
17. Verse 14 (cont.): Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.
 - a) One of the great mistakes in Christianity is: "major in the minors& minor in the majors".
 - i) This refers to having an all-out-verbal brawl over some Christian debate issue.
 - ii) Don't get me wrong. There are essential issues that are non-negotiable. Those are the one's you usually find a basic version of "The Apostle's Creed". Those are the ideas of Jesus as God; the only way to salvation is through Jesus, the Trinity, etc.
 - iii) To me, there is the Gospel message and there is debate.
 - a) Discussing all the other issues are fine. Try to present all the biblical views, and let people come to their own conclusion.
 - b) I have my opinions and you are entitled to your lousy opinions. ☺
 - c) The point is they should not be church-splitting issues.
 - iv) Remember that God cares about us being His witnesses.
 - v) Imagine what "others" are saying, "Did you hear so-and-so lead 100 people out of that church down the street? What for? I don't know. Gee, why would anybody want to join a church where they're arguing with each other all the time?"
 - b) The key word to me is "quarrelsome".
 - i) The goal of the pastor here is to keep a public lid on such debates.
 - ii) Discussions of such issues in small groups are fine. It is never meant for a Sunday service. The idea is to not get involved in "quarrelling about words".
18. Verse 15: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
 - a) When we are in service for God, who is our "audience"? The answer is God himself!
 - i) Sometimes when I go to church I like to envision Jesus sitting in the front-middle of the stage. That is who our worship is directed toward.
 - b) Because we are working and living as ambassadors for God and because He is the one we are trying to please. Paul is admonishing Timothy to diligently prepare in his task.
 - i) This verse is urging us to be hard-workers for Jesus.
 - ii) It goes back to the earlier analogies of the athlete, training hard for competition.
 - a) It also involves the patience of a hard-working farmer and the determination and hard work of a good soldier.
 - c) The next phrase is key. Paul says, "Correctly handles the word of truth."
 - i) If you are called to be a Bible teacher, it requires a lot of diligent preparation.
 - a) Not to impress the reader, but because we are working for God.
 - b) He is our boss, and we are His witnesses.
 - ii) The same concept can apply in however you are involved in the Christian ministry. I should add that all who are saved are asked and should be in the ministry in some shape or form. The ministry includes raising Godly children, and it includes being a good witness in the workplace. It means getting involved in whatever ministry God calls you to do.

19. Verse 16: Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.
- a) Paul is calling Timothy to avoid discussions of anything that is not glorifying to God.
 - i) The emphasis, as shown by example, is on religious philosophy that is not Biblical.
 - ii) I don't believe Paul is arguing against discussing a sporting event or a movie. The key is always where one's heart is. If you have a heart for God, your interest in other things becomes limited.
 - a) I always liked the expression, "Love God with all your heart and do whatever you want!"
 - b) Paul is talking about avoiding teachers with false ideas.
 - i) As examples, he names these two people: Hymenaeus and Philetus.
 - a) Hymenaeus was named in Paul's first letter as being a troublemaker.
 - b) Now he's back in the 2nd letter with a new partner in crime. ☺
 - c) What Hymenaeus was trying to spread was the philosophical "new-age" concept of everything human is bad, everything spiritual is good.
 - d) The false idea of "the resurrection has already taken place" is to 100% deny the flesh-desires and "be resurrected". The fault is that denies the literal resurrection when one dies and emphasizes one's present lifestyle.
 - e) Like all false-ideas there is a "grain-of-truth" and it has appeal to make you a better person. The problem, as always, is that it leads you away from the teaching of the Bible into false ideas.
 - ii) Notice the results of these guys in Verse 19: "they destroy the faith of some".
 - a) Picture people saying, "maybe Hymenaeus is right. It sounds so logical. All my fleshly desires are bad anyway. Maybe he's right. Maybe there is no physical resurrection and it is about how I life my life."
 - (1) You can see the mixture of "truth" and "lies", in false teaching.
20. Verse 19: Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."
- a) The key phrase to me is "The Lord knows those who are His".
 - i) Remember I talked a few pages back about those who once proclaimed Jesus and then habitually turned their back on their faith? I suspect Hymenaeus and his followers fall into his category.
 - ii) There are times, when a pastor has to focus on those who stay the course and let those "go" who are false teachers. If the Hymenaeus's of the world lead people astray, let them go. A pastor must protect the flock of believers.
 - b) God calls us to witness to those who don't believe, and help mature those who do.
 - i) To those who fall away, we can't become obsessed with them at the price of ignoring those who have not fallen away. Let me explain this further:
 - a) We can still pray for people like this to turn back to God. We should pray for their influence to be minimal.
 - b) Our primary focus is on the believers and those who will be believers.
 - c) Given that, we have this double focus of believers and non-believers in Verses 16-19:
 - i) 1) To get away from the false teachers and those who desire to lead others away.
 - ii) 2) To personally "turn away from wickedness" to keep our focus on Christ.
 - iii) That is the idea behind these verses. We are to focus on what God calls us to do. I stated earlier the Bible does a very good job of defending itself. All we have to do is correctly teach it. That is a better rebuke against false teaching than trying to debate them and their ideas.

21. Verse 20: In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.
- a) The word “articles” can be translated “vessels”, as in a household item used in service for display or use. They include vases, pots, pans, trashcans, etc.
 - i) In most homes I have been in, there is a trashcan under the sink. It is hidden from the public eye.
 - ii) There are also beautiful vases we use for displaying flowers.
 - iii) In Christianity, you can choose to be a beautiful vase, or a trash can. ☺
 - iv) I know this sounds like a silly analogy, but that is what Paul is teaching here.
 - b) In context of the surrounding verses, Paul is talking about the Christian life. We want to be of service to God. No matter how large or small that service, you are a “gold and silver” vessel in God’s eye if what you are doing is glorifying God. Those who turn their lives over to Christ, but don’t do much with their salvation, are like kitchen trashcans. ☺
22. End of Verse 20: some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹ If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.
- a) I included the end of Verse 20 with Verse 21 as they go together.
 - i) Notice Verse 21 opens with “If a man cleanses himself from the latter”.
 - ii) The “latter” refer to those “vessels” that are for ignoble purposes.
 - a) Yes, the trash cans under the sink! ☺
 - b) So what does the “noble” and “ignoble” refer to? Let’s read the rest of Verse 21 for a clue: “he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.
 - i) This is not a salvation issue. This is about being used by God for His glory.
 - a) If one wants to be used by God, one has to be made available to God.
 - b) Making daily time for prayer and study of God’s word is making oneself available to God. God can’t teach you what he expects of you if you don’t make yourself available to Him!
 - c) The other aspect is actually obeying what God asks you to do.
 - d) This chapter is full of lessons that require obedience.
 - (1) The discipline of a soldier, an athlete and a hard working farmer are all used as examples.
 - (2) The balance is not to rely upon your self-disciplined ability, but to remember that God is providing you with that ability.
23. Verse 22: Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
- a) The verse starts with the phrase, “flee the evil desires of youth”.
 - i) Since it is not explained, it leaves us free to speculate.
 - ii) When I think of youthful desires, I think of “instant gratification”. Doing things that make you feel good, and feel good now. One can fill in their own “seven deadly sin” list here and think about their own youth.
 - iii) This is not about ignoring one’s needs, but about having the discipline and insight to realize there is more to life than instant gratification. It gets back to the eternal perspective of wanting to please God vs. pleasing oneself.
 - b) Let’s review what Paul says we should pursue instead: “(1) righteousness, (2) faith, (3) love and (4) peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
 - i) The Greek word for “pursue” implies continually pursue, as to do it regularly.
 - ii) “Righteousness” simply means right-standing-before God.
 - a) We obtain righteousness only through our trust in Jesus as a sin payment.
 - b) We grow in our maturity to Christ by to regularly confessing our sins.

- (1) Jesus didn't just die for your sins prior to being born again, he died for all your sins, past, present and future.
- iii) "Faith" in this context is a reminder of our purpose in life and what we believe.
 - iv) "Love" is the idea of giving of oneself for other's needs over one's own.
 - v) "Peace" is that sense of inner peace. It is the opposite of strife. I believe if you actively pursue the "first 3" on this list, the peace will naturally come.
 - vi) The last phrase of this verse emphasizes that Christianity is teamwork. It says to do these things along with others who have the same calling.
 - a) I believe this verse implies a sense of accountability to one another.
24. Verse 23: Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.
- a) The last four verses of this chapter focus on the topic of avoiding arguments.
 - b) Have you ever noticed that a week or two after an argument with your spouse or roommate, you remember the emotion, but you forget what you fought about?
 - i) In the heat of the moment, you say things you regret later?
 - ii) This is the idea Paul is trying to get across here.
 - c) Most adults can name at least one person who loves to argue and debate.
 - i) I think it disappoints that type of person when you agree with them.
 - ii) Maturity is the ability to stand back from an argument and say, "is this argument beneficial? Can you say, "are we working on resolution, or do we just want our opinion to be heard?
 - a) It reminds me of the classical saying, "some people have something to say, and some people just need to say something." ☺
 - d) Paul is emphasizing to avoid those types of arguments.
 - i) The primary purpose is our witness as a Christian to outsiders.
25. Verse 24: And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.
- a) This verse continues the same idea. It adds the charge to: 1) be kind to everyone 2) able to teach and 3) not resentful.
 - b) Let's start with the phrase, "be kind to everyone".
 - i) Are there people in the church who are tough to get along with? Of course.
 - ii) Are there stressful situations and sleep-deprived situations where things can get out of hand fast? Of course.
 - iii) Given our own strength, I don't believe its possible to live out this command. Think how difficult the concept of, "be kind to everyone" is on a practical basis.
 - iv) To be able to be "kind to everyone" again requires the eternal perspective of being a good witness for Christ as being more important than being right.
 - a) Our ego wants to be "right" on every issue. Our ego wants to be heard.
 - b) Paul is trying to teach to be above it. This is about being a good witness.
 - c) The next phrase is "able to teach".
 - i) I don't think it is so much about actual classroom teaching or pulpit teaching so much as it is about teaching-by-example.
 - ii) The few people I know who truly live out this verse are some of my mentors as Christians. Those people who prioritize the showing forth the love-of-God over being passionate about their position teach by example far greater than anything they actually say.
 - d) The last is the phrase is "not resentful".
 - i) Our ego want to end the argument, but still hold it against them. This clause is simply teaching the opposite. Again, the emphasis is our witness to the world as Christians over our rights or our opinion.

26. Verse 25: Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.
- a) The last two verses are one sentence, so we'll take them on together.
 - b) I believe the emphasis here is on false teachers. Reading this in context of the last set of verses, Paul was mainly concerned about false teachers coming into the church.
 - c) Paul is saying to not get into an in-your-face rebuke of them. The idea is to gently instruct them in the truth of God's word. How you say it is more important that what you say.
 - i) One of my favorite proverbs is: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1 NIV)
 - a) The key word is gentle. Other translations say "soft spoken".
 - b) I've always been amazed in arguments or debates that when I give a very soft, gentle answer, the other person is more likely to listen.
 - c) Part of the reason is that in order to hear the answer, one has to strain.
 - d) The other is your attitude. When we yell or get aggressive, people naturally get defensive. To respond softly and humbly often gets one to listen and think about our response. That is Paul's idea as well.
 - d) The last part of this sentence can be paraphrased as, "If you gently rebuke these people, maybe this person will come to their senses and realize that they are doing Satan's will and not God's will.
 - i) We tend to think of Satan's will as committing some horrible evil or crime.
 - ii) Often "Satan's will" is simply to satisfy our own desires versus God's.
 - a) It can include some aspect of your life that is not God's will for you.
 - b) It can include some sort of false teaching that is turning you away from God. It can include some part of your life that is preventing you from wanting to go to church or be around Christians.
 - c) I should add that one of Satan's best weapons is guilt. One you realize what you've done is wrong he'll say, "well, well, look at you. You call yourself a Christian, after what you've done. God will never love you now. You're no good. You might as well not go back to church this Sunday." It is the idea of keeping you away from confessing and turning from your sin out of a sense of guilt.
 - iii) I believe a mistake we make as Christians, to use a baseball analogy is, "we try to hit a home run when a single will do".
 - a) To often we feel we haven't accomplished our job unless we have 100% convinced that person to change their ways right there on the spot.
 - b) What Paul is teaching is simply "give them something to think about". That is what I mean by "hitting a single vs. a home run". Don't try to get them to change there on the spot, but gently teach something of God's truth and let them think about it. Pray for them afterward. Let God work on their conscious vs. you work on them. That way, God gets the credit and not you! That's the idea in the first place.
27. On that positive note, it's a good time to wrap up this chapter.
28. Let's pray: Father, we thank you for these practical lessons on faith and obedience. Too often, we desire our own will or what we think is your will for your life. Help us to continually "let go and let God". Father, continue to teach us what is your will for our life. Give us the grace and strength to make ourselves available to do your life. Finally, help us to be good witness for you. We like Paul need to live as witnesses to those who will also be called into salvation, as well as to help mature others who are already called. For we ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Bonus Material – Below is the class handouts. It is a "summary" version of this lesson.

Notes for 2nd Timothy – Chapter 2 (Page 1 of 6)

Introduction: “Fear Vs. Courage”

1. Of all the positive attributes the world needs more of, I would list the top priority as courage.
 - a. “Fear” prevents more accomplishments any attribute I can name.
 - b. My favorite biblical character who should have been intimidated by fear is Joshua.
 - i. Joshua was given the task of being the next leader after Moses.
 - ii. Would you find that intimidating, having to follow in Moses’ footsteps?
 - iii. So what were the first words of encouragement God gave Joshua?
 1. “Be strong and courageous!” (Joshua 1:6a, NIV)
 2. God told Joshua four times to have strength and courage in Joshua, Chapter 1!
 - c. Timothy was in “the same boat” as Joshua.
 - i. Timothy knew that his mentor, his hero, his spiritual father was about to die.
 - ii. It was now Timothy’s time to be the leader.
 - d. Chapter 2 is a great Chapter to read when those fears-of-life come at you.
 - i. It is a great chapter to study when you need the courage to step forward in faith.
2. Paul was aware of Timothy’s fears. An interesting word-study to do with Chapter 2 is just to read all the verbs. It reads like a general giving orders. Here are some examples:
 - a. “Be strong” (Verse 1), “remind them” (Verse 14) and “be diligent” (Verse 15).

2nd Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 1: “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”

1. If I had to pick a verse to memorize from this chapter, it would be this one.
2. Let me start by teaching what Paul does not say:
 - a. He does not say, “Be strong in your self-discipline ability to pray regularly”.
 - b. He does not say, “Be strong in your daily Bible reading habits” or your service to God.
3. Paul says to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
4. Illustration of The beginning of God’s Grace: “We are as dust/dirt”. God created us out of dust.
 - a. For dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19b, NIV).
 - b. The same elements that make up dirt make up a human being.
 - c. When Adam & Eve sinned, God have could have wiped them out completely, but out of God’s grace, he forgave them and provided a remedy to atone for their sins.
5. God is love in its perfect form, that he gives us life, and life abundantly.
 - a. We can’t get more blessings by how many good deeds we do.
 - b. That begins with accepting Jesus as payment for our sins so God can bless our lives.
 - c. A big part of the Christian maturity is to regularly examine in what way do they trust their own ability and self-discipline versus trusting in God’s grace.
 - d. God does not work on a “tit-for-tat” basis.
 - i. We don’t get more blessings because we prayed harder today.
 - ii. Prayer/service for God etc. has blessings on our lives. The danger is to depend upon that blessing and say, “OK, God, you owe me because I did this or that.”
6. In terms of our “Christian walk”, which is our daily dependence upon God, Here are two important statements made in the Bible on this topic:
 - a. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; (Psalm 110:10a, NIV)
 - i. This verse reminds us that our life is God-centered, not ourselves-centered.
 - b. “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2nd Timothy 1, NIV)
 - i. This reminds us that everything we do depends upon God & not our willpower.
 - c. Most veteran Christians can tell of at least one devout mature Christian who has “fallen” or a major pastor who has resigned in disgrace.
 - i. I have found the root-cause of those incidents come from either failing to continually trust in God’s grace or lacking a “healthy” fear of God.

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 2 (Page 2 of 6)

Verse 1 (cont.)

7. Getting back to Timothy, I believe that is what Paul is trying to communicate here.
 - a. Paul is urging Timothy that his strength as a pastor, as a leader, as a God-fearing Christian must continually stem from God's grace and nothing else.
 - b. Personally, I know of no other thrill in life greater than to be used by God.
 - i. That thrill comes when we make ourselves available to God for service.
 - ii. It starts with God's grace. His unmerited favor of love to us, His free gifts he gives us as believers that is the root of all we can do for him.
8. Good cross-reference verse: "But he (God) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2nd Corinthians 12:9, NIV)

Verse 2: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

1. Paul is saying, "Hey don't just rely on what I'm saying in this letter, it is about all the things I have taught you over the years. It is about all the things you have heard me say as a teacher."
2. Paul is teaching in effect, "Pass it on Timothy, because my time is almost up. It is time for you, as well as other Godly men I have trained, to lead the next generation."

Verses 3-4: "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer."

1. Paul gives 3 occupational examples of how to be strong witness for Jesus.
 - a) They are 1) a soldier, 2) an athlete and 3) a farmer.
2. Paul says in Verses 3 and 4 that being a Christian can be compared to the life of a soldier.
 - a) One does not join the army for the financial benefits.
 - b) One joins an army out of a sense of duty.
 - c) There is a "calling" to defend and support one's country.
 - d) Paul is asking Timothy to face hardship because that is the price a Christian must pay.
3. Whether or not you like it, all believers are "soldiers".
 - a) "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:9 NIV).
 - b) Timothy struggling with forces outside the church (immoral world, those trying to kill Christians) and those within the church (false teachers).
 - c) Did you ever stop and think that there are evil forces behind those attacks?
 - d) "If you don't think Satan is real, try opposing him for awhile".
4. What is the motivation for dealing with all this hardship?
 - a) Paul says in Verse 3 it is, "To please his commanding officer."
 - b) If you have turned your life over to Jesus, He is your commanding officer!
 1. We serve God out of gratitude for our salvation.
 2. We serve God by His grace that He has given us for the ability of service.

Verse 5: "Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules."

1. The next example Paul gives is one of an athlete. Paul focuses on the rules of competition.
 - a. To paraphrase Paul, "there are no short-cuts in being a Christian".
 - b. It requires the discipline of an athlete.
2. Like an athlete, being used of God often requires a lot of unappreciated and unnoticed hard work. Other than God himself, our Christian service often goes unnoticed.

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Verse 5(cont):

3. Paul focuses on the “rules”. So what “rules” are there for being a Christian?
 - a. The rules are what God commands you do in obedience to Him.
 - b. A great prayer is, “Oh Lord, how can I be of service to you? What would you like me to specifically pray for today? Who would you like me to help today?”
 - c. The athlete-reference used here, focuses on the “rules” that God commands and teaches us through his Word.

Verse 6: “The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.”

1. The final example of how a Christian is to live is that of a farmer.
2. The emphasis here is that the farmer is the first to receive the crops he gets.
 - a. I believe the idea here is that the trials we go through as a Christian is worth it.
 - b. The eternal rewards we receive for the endurance and patience needed to be Christian far outweighs whatever suffering we must go through.
3. The rewards “here and now” are often beneficial.
 - a. God gives us joy in whatever ministry he has called us.

Verse 7: “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.”

1. There is far more insight God can give you on these verses than I can write in these handouts.
2. God calls on us to meditate on the Bible. That simply means to think about it.
 - a. “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. (Joshua 1:8, NIV)

Verse 8: “Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,”

1. Paul emphasizes 2 things: 1) Jesus was raised from the dead and 2) A descendant of David.
2. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead as validation that Jesus’ sacrifice was sufficient as payment for our sins.
 - a) The emphasis is on the God-aspect of who-is-Jesus.
3. King David was promised that a descendant of his would rule forever (See 2nd Sam. 7:12-14).
 - b) The emphasis is on the humanity-aspect of who-is-Jesus.
4. God is perfect by definition (See Matthew 5:48). Jesus is “100% God and 100% man”. Only an entity that is 100% God and 100% man can relate to our suffering as humans as well as be a perfect sacrifice of our sins.

Verse 8b-9: “This is my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

1. Visualize Paul in a dark jail cell. Maybe he was alone, or maybe full of prisoners.
 - a. His only privilege was the ability to dictate a letter to Timothy.
 - b. Notice how Paul compares his chains to the lack of chains of the Gospel message.
2. You can’t kill the Gospel Message. People have tried for 2,000 years. The more the
 - a. “I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander (The Great), Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.”—Napoleon
 - b. ““Scripture is like a lion. Who ever heard of defending a lion? Just turn it loose; it will defend itself.” Charles Spurgeon

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Verse 10: “Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.”

1. When Paul says, “the elect” this is referring to those who are and who will be saved.
 - a. In this verse, God’s “pre-determined knowledge” of who is and who isn’t going to be saved is being emphasized in the statement “the elect”.
2. Yet in the next verse (Verse 11), it says, “If we died with him (Jesus), we’ll also live with him.”
 - a. That verse implies that we are involved in the decision to accept Jesus.
3. Some spend lifetimes debating, “God’ pre-determined knowledge of who’s saved vs. free will. I believe the Bible teaches both. It is difficult to reconcile. That doesn’t mean one is to ignore the issue, but just to see with a sense of balance between two extreme viewpoints.
4. There are times in life where we have to give up our rights or give up our desires strictly for the purpose of helping others see the eternal benefits of turning over their lives to Christ.
 - a. Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible...To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. (1st Corinthians 9:18, 22 NIV)

Verse 11: “Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;”

1. Verses 11, 12 and 13 are in a poetic rhythm format, which leads most commentators to believe that this was either an early hymn or some sort of early apostle’s creed.
2. Notice the word “died” is past tense. It is not about our future body-death.
 - a. When you accept Jesus into your heart, you are asking him to “take over”.
 - b. It is the 100% death of your will vs. what God wants for your life.
 - c. Jesus said, ““If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. (Mark 8:34b-35, NIV).
 - d. Think about the combination of “taking up your cross” and following Jesus. That is the idea of “spiritual” death of our will.

Verse 12: “If we endure, we will also reign with him.”

1. First and foremost, this verse refers to our eternal salvation.
 - a. Paul is reminding Timothy to publicly declare his belief in Jesus, even at the point of death. The reward for this is to reign with Jesus.
2. This verse leads to the question, “If everyone is in heaven, who are we reigning “over”?”
 - a. This verse supports the idea of a literal 1,000-year millennium where Christ rules over the earth from the earth. That is what Revelation Chapter 20 teaches.
 - b. Some major Christian denominations (Roman Catholics, et.al.) disagree with this view.

Verse 13, Part 1: “If we disown him, he will also disown us;”

1. If one accepts Jesus, and then truly and habitually denies Jesus as God for the rest of your life, you are not saved. This is about permanently changing your view.

Verse 13, Part 2: “If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”

1. To paraphrase, if we deny Jesus, He won’t go away.
2. God remains faithful in his promise of eternal damnation just as He remains faithful in his promise of eternal salvation. That is the idea behind this verse.

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Verse 14a: “Keep reminding them of these things.

1. The problem of Timothy’s church is that they were facing a very-visible Roman army telling them to deny Jesus declare Caesar as God.
2. We have to remind ourselves of biblical principals to keep our focus on God & not our problems.

Verse 14b: “Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.””

1. To me, there is the Gospel message and there is debate.
2. Discussing all the other issues are fine. The point is they should not be church-splitting issues.

Verse 15: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

1. Because we are working and living as ambassadors for God and because He is the one we are trying to please. Paul is admonishing Timothy to diligently prepare in his task.
2. The next phrase is key. Paul says, “Who correctly handles the word of truth.”
 - a. If you are called to be a Bible teacher, it requires a lot of diligent preparation.
 - b. You do this not to impress the audience, but because we are working for God.
 - c. The same concept of diligence/hard work applies to all areas of the Christian ministry

Verses 16-17: “Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.”

1. Paul is calling Timothy to avoid discussions of anything that is not glorifying to God.
2. Paul is not arguing against discussing a sporting event or a movie. The question is, “Where is your heart”? If you have a heart for God, your interest in other things becomes limited.
 - a. “Love God with all your heart and then do whatever you want!”
3. Paul talks about avoiding false teachers. He names Hymenaeus and Philetus as examples.
 - a. What Hymenaeus was trying to spread was a philosophical “new-age” concept that everything material is bad and everything spiritual is good. It is similar to Buddhism.
 - b. This false idea they were spreading is to deny the literal resurrection of Jesus and just focus upon one’s present lifestyle to live for the “spiritual”. It is called, “Gnosticism”.
 - c. Like all false-ideas there is a “grain-of-truth” and it has appeal to make you a better person. The problem is that it leads you away from the Bible into false concepts.

Verse 19: “Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.””

1. The key phrase to me is “The Lord knows those who are His”.
2. There are times, when a pastor has to focus on the “flock”. If false teachers like Hymenaeus lead people astray, we may have to let those people go. A pastor must protect the believing remnant.

Verse 20a: “In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.”

1. The word “articles” can be translated “vessels”, as in a household item used in service for display or use. They include vases, pots, pans, trashcans, etc.
2. We want to be of service to God. No matter how large or small that service, you are a “gold and silver” vessel in God’s eye if you are glorifying God. Those who turn their lives over to Christ, but don’t do much with their salvation are like “trashcan-quality” vessels. ☺

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Verse 20b-21: “some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹ If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

1. This is not a salvation issue. This is about being used by God for His glory.
2. If one wants to be used by God, one has to be made available to God.
3. The other aspect is actually obeying what God asks you to do.

Verse 22: “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

1. The verse starts with the phrase, “flee the evil desires of youth”.
2. “The evil desires of youth” refers to immoral self-gratification; i.e., “do what feels good”.
 - a. This is not about ignoring one’s needs, but about having the maturity, discipline and insight to realize there is more to life than instant gratification.
3. Look at what Paul says we should pursue instead: “(1) righteousness, (2) faith, (3) love and (4) peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
 - a. “Righteousness” simply means right-standing-before God.
 - b. “Faith” in this context is a reminder of our purpose in life and what we believe.
 - c. “Love” is the idea of giving of oneself for other’s needs over one’s own.
 - d. “Peace” is that sense of inner peace. It is the opposite of strife and worry.
 - e. The phrase “along with those” emphasizes that Christianity is a team effort.

Verse 23: “Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.”

1. Maturity is the ability to say, “Is this argument beneficial?” or, “Are we working on resolution, or do we just want our opinion to be heard?”
2. Avoid people loves to argue and debate.
3. “Some people have something to say, others just want to say something”.

Verse 24: “And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.”

1. The command of this verse is to: 1) be kind to everyone 2) able to teach and 3) not resentful.
2. To be able to be “kind to everyone” again requires the eternal perspective of being a good witness for Christ as being more important than being right.
3. “Able to teach”: It not only includes classroom teaching and pulpit teaching, but also teaching-by-example.
4. To be “not resentful” is to not resent/be jealous of anyone. Do what God called you to do and let God worry about other people.

Verse 25-26: “Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

1. I believe the emphasis here is on false teachers. Reading this in context of the last set of verses, Paul was mainly concerned about false teachers coming into the church.
2. Paul is saying to not get into an in-your-face rebuke of them. The idea is to gently instruct them in the truth of God’s word. How you say it is more important that what you say.
 - a. “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Prov. 15:1 NIV)
3. Verse 26 can be paraphrased as, “If you gently rebuke these people, maybe this person will come to their senses and realize that they are doing Satan’s will and not God’s will.