

From Forgiven to Faithfulness (2 Timothy)

Lesson 10: Faithfulness and Truth (2 Tim. 2:14-26)

Date: February 19, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

1. Faithful Servants (1:1-8)

Last week we looked at four hardships that will test our loyalty to Christ.

(1) Physical persecutions; (2) Moral deterioration; (3) Doctrinal defections; and (4) Personal desertion. Timothy was charged to "be different" (*sude*).

2. Faithfulness in History (1:9-2:2)

God showed Himself faithful to His promises, Paul and Onesiphorus were faithful, while some of their contemporaries were unfaithful. In light of these things, Timothy and believers today are charged to be faithful.

3. Faithfulness Illustrated (2:3-13)

Paul used a soldier, an athlete, a farmer, himself, a trustworthy saying & a workman to illustrate the theme of faithfulness. These illustrations clearly demonstrate the *exertion* necessary to be faithful. The learner will understand that faithfulness requires energy & then commit to expending it.

THE WORKMAN (2:14-26)

1. Faithfulness in _____ (2:14-18)

A. _____ from the truth (2:14, 16-18)

Quarreling about words is of no value; it leads to spiritual _____ (Greek: "catastrophe" - *καταστροφή katastrophé*).

B. _____ the truth (2:15)

1) To "correctly handle" means lit. "to cut a straight line".

Primary allusion in Paul's mind was the word's use in tentmaking.

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 and EXPLAIN the seriousness of denying bodily resurrection.

2) To "correctly handle" Timothy must "be diligent" (study).

What are benefits of such diligent study of the Word of God?

2. Faithfulness in _____ (2:19-22)

A. Proposition (2:19)

The _____ church of God stands sure in spite of false teaching. Even "the gates of Hades" will not withstand the church's success.

NIV Study Bible Note on 1 Timothy 1:3-11

"In this section, along with 4:1-8; 6:3-5, 20-21, Paul warns against heretical teachers in the Ephesian church. They are characterized by **(1)** teaching false doctrines (1:3; 6:3); **(2)** teaching Jewish myths (Tit. 1:14); **(3)** wanting to be teachers of the OT law (1:7); **(4)** building up endless, far-fetched, fictitious stories based on obscure genealogical points (1:4; 4:7; Tit. 3:9); **(5)** being conceited (1:7; 6:4); **(6)** being argumentative (1:4; 6:4; 2 Tim. 2:23; Tit. 3:9); **(7)** using their positions of relig. leadership for personal financial gain (6:5). These heretics probably were forerunners of the Gnostics (6:20-21)."

B. Illustration (2:20, 21)

The principle of the illus. is _____. Christians are to separate from ungodly practices and teachings and from so-called brothers who stubbornly con't. in ungodly practices & teachings. Separation from such makes one a vessel fit for God's use.

C. Action (2:22)

- 1) _____
"the evil desires of youth" - would include a variety of desires that arise fr. the self-sufficiency that's characteristic of youthfulness. Such "desires" are self-centered, not God-centered.
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
". . . . along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

3. Faithfulness in _____ (2:23-26)

A. Eluding _____ (2:23)

Verse 23 needs some explanation in the light of all Scripture. Is the Christian to avoid all controversy?

B. Educating _____ (2:24-26)

- 1) The _____ to follow (25)
"Those who oppose him he must gently instruct."
- 2) The _____ to display (24)
- 3) The _____ of confrontation (26)

The message of vss. 23-26 is not to avoid confronting foolish & unlearned questions but to avoid getting involved in useless arguments over them.