

October 29, 2017

“One Who Doesn’t Need to be Ashamed”

Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 2:14-19 (NASB)

Cross References: Numbers 16:5, 26-27; Psalm 1:6; Proverbs 21:2-3; Isaiah 52:11; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 7:21-27; John 10:14; Romans 2:6-8; 6:12-15; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:10-22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:9; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 2:11-14; 3:8-11

Lesson Idea: As we diligently study God’s Word and handle it rightly, it leads us to avoid falsehood and stand on God’s firm foundation.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Oct 22 Mark 15-16	Oct 23 Luke 1
Oct 24 Luke 2-3	Oct 25 Luke 4-5
Oct 26 Luke 6-7	Oct 27 Luke 8-9
Oct 28 Luke 10-11	Oct 29 Luke 12-13

Background:

Today’s lesson should remind us of the importance studying the Bible. This is God’s inspired Word that we come together to study. It speaks to every area of our lives with the eternal wisdom of Almighty God. May we celebrate that God has loved us so much, that He chooses to reveal Himself in His Holy Word. We need to teach it to our children from the womb until they leave our homes. We need to let it instruct every area of our lives with living Words of Truth. And we need to handle it rightly.

NOTE: David Guzik had some helpful comments on these Scriptures, but I’ve placed them at the end of the lesson so that they wouldn’t break up your individual study of this passage at home.

2 Timothy 2:14-19

14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already

taken place, and they upset the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

DISCUSSION:

- v 14. What was Timothy told to “remind” the church? What does it mean to “solemnly charge” someone? Why would this happen “in the presence of God?” (see 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:8-11)
- What does it mean to “wrangle about words?” What happens to people in the church when this is happening? How does this happen in churches today?
- V 15. What is diligence, and how should it apply to being a follower of Christ? What about your life do you think God would mark as “approved?” What enables a Christian to not be ashamed before God? (see Romans 6:12-15; 12:1-2)
- V 16-17. What is “worldly and empty chatter?” How does it lead to “further ungodliness?” How and why does it “spread like gangrene?”
- v 17-18. What does Paul say about Hymenaeus and Philetus? Why does he point them out by name? In what way had they left the truth? What problem does straying from the truth cause in church? (see 1 Corinthians 15:10-22)
- V 19. Why does Paul emphasize the “firm foundation of God?” What is that firm foundation? What is the purpose of a “seal,” and how does it apply to this context? (Paul may allude to Korah’s rebellion. See Numbers 16-especially verses 5, 26-27; Isaiah 52:11)
- How do the two seals guard the church? *The Lord knows those who are His.* (see Psalm 1:6; Jeremiah 1:5; John 10:14; Galatians 4:9) *Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.* (see Proverbs 21:2-3; Matthew 7:21-27; Romans 2:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Titus 2:11-14)

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How diligently do you study the Scriptures?

NOTES from David Guzik, *2 Timothy 2:14-19*:

(14) **Remind them of these things:** After reminding Timothy of the essential points of the gospel, Paul adds that Timothy must always remind his hearers of *these things*. Timothy's job as a pastor was to keep his congregation always focused on the gospel.

The church is constantly tempted to get its focus off of the message that really matters, and is tempted to become an entertainment center, a social service agency, a mutual admiration society, or any number of other things. But this temptation must be resisted, and the church should constantly remember these things.

- The things of 2 Timothy 2:8: *Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel.*

- The things of 2 Timothy 2:11-13: *For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful, He cannot deny Himself.*

Not to strive about words to no profit: At the same time, there were things that Timothy *must not focus on*. The church must stand for the truth, but it must not become a debating society. We can get distracted by endless discussion or strife over things that don't have central importance. . .

To the ruin of the hearers: This shows that it is a serious matter and there is much to lose. If we take the focus off the message of God, and put the focus on human opinions and endless debates, it will result in the ruin of the hearers. The Bible says, *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17). Yet if people do not hear the word of God, then ruin comes by hearing the opinions and speculations and entertainment of man.

(15) **Be diligent:** Paul often had to exhort Timothy to courage and action. Earlier in the chapter (2 Timothy 2:3-5), Paul encouraged him to hard work and endurance for the service of the Lord.

To present yourself approved to God: Timothy's goal was not to present himself approved to people, but to God. He wasn't to regard the job of being a pastor as a popularity contest but instead as a call to faithfulness to God. Timothy wasn't to worry so much about presenting other people approved to God (though there was a place for this in his pastoral ministry). His first concern had to be to present himself approved to God.

A worker who does not need to be ashamed: It is embarrassing to do a job poorly and then to have your work examined. The Bible warns us that the work of each Christian will be examined at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore we have another motivation to work diligently for the Lord, so we will not be ashamed when our work is examined.

"It is better explained as *a workman who has no cause for shame when his work is being inspected.*" (White)

Rightly dividing the word of truth: This was to be a focus of Timothy's hard work. He was to work hard so he could rightly divide the word of God. Timothy, as a faithful pastor, was to be *rightly dividing God's Word*. That is, he had to know what it said and didn't say, and how it was to be understood and how it was not to be understood. It wasn't enough for Timothy to know some Bible stories and verses and sprinkle them through his sermons as illustrations. His teaching was to be a "right dividing" of the Word of God, correctly teaching his congregation.

Rightly dividing: This also means there is such a thing as *wrongly dividing*; not everyone cuts it straight. We must understand that Biblical truth is not just an issue left up to everyone's interpretation. There is a right way and a wrong way to understand the Bible, and a pastor especially must work hard to master the right interpretation. . . This is an important point: The Bible does not mean just what anyone wants it to mean. There may be many people trying to twist the Scriptures to their own ends, but they are wrongly dividing the word of truth. We can't just pick the interpretation that seems most comfortable to us, and claim it as true – it must be rightly dividing the word of truth, and it must be consistent with what the Bible says in the specific passage and with the entire message of the Scriptures.

(16) **But shun profane and vain babblings:** This refers to anything that takes the focus off of the gospel and God's Word. These babblings are profane because they are unholy in contrast to the holiness of God's Word. They are vain, because even though people like to hear them, they don't have lasting value.

Their message will spread like cancer: The message of profane and vain babblings may spread quickly and be popular. They are like a cancer that spreads fast and captures an audience.

(17-18) **Hymenaeus and Philetus:** Hymenaeus is mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:20 as a man whom Paul delivered to Satan that [he] may learn not to blaspheme. This is the only place where we hear of Philetus, and here Paul tells us of their error. They were of this sort – that is, they had a message full of profane and vain babblings, and apparently the message was somewhat popular, because it spread quickly. *They had strayed concerning the truth:* Apparently, they started out correctly, and then strayed from that correct position.

(19) **Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands...** God has a plan, God has a purpose, God has a strategy, and it is not going to fail. It doesn't matter how many fall away, how many reject the truth, how many go their own way

after profane and vain babblings – Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands.