

## **2Timothy**

### **“Courageous Ministry in Dark Times”**

**Theme: Paul’s Practical Appeal**

**Lesson 2: Know Who You Are and What You Do – part 2**

**Text: 2Timothy 2:14-26**

#### **I. Seven Pictures of Christian Ministry – 2Timothy 2:1-26**

##### **A. Stewards of what we teach – 2:2**

##### **B. Soldiers – 2Timothy 2:3-4, 8-13**

##### **C. Athlete – 2Timothy 2:5**

1. Paul also used athletic illustrations in his writings in 4 ways: wrestling, boxing, running & exercising.
2. The Greeks and Romans loved their sports.
  - a. Why were the Olympic games important to them?
  - b. **1Timothy 4:7-8**
3. Paul admonished Timothy to obey the rules.
  - a. What does it take to become a winning athlete?
  - b. Why should an athlete be careful to obey all the rules of the game? **see v.5**
4. For a Christian, why is it important to follow the rules?
  - a. From a human point of view, was Paul a winner or a loser?
  - b. Did Paul obey the rules? **2Timothy 4:7-8**
  - c. What did Paul remember about his ministry and his calling?

##### **D. Farmer (2:6-7) and His Field**

1. This is another favorite image found in Paul’s letters.
  - a. Paul compared the local church to a cultivated field.
  - b. **1Corinthians 3:5-9**
  - c. **see Romans 12:5-8; 1Corinthians 12:12-31**
  - d. Who gives the increase and who should receive the glory? **1Cor. 3:6-7**
2. Four practical truths are found in this image of the farmer and his field:
  - a. A farmer has to work and realize it will be hard work. **Proverbs 24:30-34**
  - b. A farmer needs patience. **James 5:7**
  - c. A farmer will share in the harvest and be the first one to enjoy its blessings. **1Corinthians 9:7, 11, 14; 2Timothy 5:8**
  - d. A farmer gets great joy out of seeing planted seeds bear fruit. **Gal.5:22ff**

##### **E. Workman – 2:14-18**

1. When Paul preached the word of God, certain Judaizing teachers followed him and attempted to subvert brethren from the truth.
  - a. What were they teaching? **Galatians 1:4-9; 5:1-5**
  - b. **Acts 20:29-30; Colossians 2:8**
2. Special emphasis should be placed upon the words, “these things” in **v.14** Why?
  - a. **see vs.8-13**
  - b. Paul gives an urgent warning to all Christians and preachers.
  - c. “Sowing discord among brethren” **see Proverbs 6:16-19**
    - (1) **2Corinthians 11:3**
    - (2) What has the power to maintain liberty from any and all false teachings and subversion? **vs.15**
    - (3) **1Timothy 6:3-5**
    - (4) What did these false teachers love to do?
    - (5) **see Titus 3:9**
    - (6) What was Paul condemning? Was he forbidding religious discussion and sincere debate?  
**See Acts 13:45-46; 15:1-2; 17:2-3,17; 19:8-9; Phil.1:16**
3. A worker in God’s kingdom will “give diligence” and be zealous as he presents himself before God and others. **vs.15**
  - a. The word diligent can be found in **4:9,21; Titus 3:12**
  - b. The emphasis in this paragraph is that God’s workman needs to be diligent in his labor for the Lord.

c. "Rightly dividing" means \_\_\_\_\_

d. What should a Christian "rightly divide" as God's workman? \_\_\_\_\_

e. How should God's word be used in building the Lord's church? **2Cor.4:1-2; 1Cor.3:10ff**

4. An approved worker diligently studies the word of God and seeks to apply it to his own life.

a. Why is this important according to the context of this section?

b. "making a straight path through the scriptures" . . . (Benson)

c. **How does one do this when he/she studies the Bible?**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

d. **1Timothy 1:3-4; Colossians 3:15-17**

5. Another reason it is important to diligently study the word of God, an approved workman knows that false doctrine is dangerous and he will oppose it. **See vs.17**

a. Paul compared it to \_\_\_\_\_ **vs.17**

b. What is the cure?

c. Paul named **2 men** who were false teachers. **vs.18 see 1Timothy 1:20**

#### F. Vessel – **2Timothy 2:19-22**

1. Paul describes a "great house" which is the church of Jesus Christ.

a. What do we know about the foundation of this house? **1Corinthians 3:11**

b. How important was a Roman seal?

c. **see Numbers 16:5, 26; Ephesians 1:4**

2. This great house has vessels for performing household functions.

a. Paul divides the utensils into **2** categories:

(1) "honor" \_\_\_\_\_

(2) "dishonor" \_\_\_\_\_

b. What kind of vessel (utensil) do you want to be in God's kingdom?

c. Will utensils of dishonor survive the test of fire?

d. The important thing is that the honorable vessels not be \_\_\_\_\_ by the dishonorable.

e. Paul reminded Timothy to avoid the sins of the flesh in **vs.22.**

(1) **1Timothy 6:11-12**

(2) True Bible separation is balanced – We flee sin and we follow after righteousness.

(3) If we are not balanced, then we will be \_\_\_\_\_ instead of separated.

(4) What do we, and who do we fight for? **vs.22**

#### G. Servant – **vs.23-26**

1. "Servant" (doulos) means \_\_\_\_\_

a. **see Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1**

b. Are we now slaves of God? **Romans 6:16ff**

2. As God's servant, will we always have an easy time teaching the word of God?

a. What should our attitude be when we teach? **vs.24**

b. Do some people love foolish and stupid arguments? Why?

c. What will happen to them if we do ignore such people?

d. What should we avoid?

e. As God's servants, our purpose is not to win arguments, but to \_\_\_\_\_ souls. see **vs.25**

3. The word "recover" in the KJV is a Greek word which means "they may return to soberness."

a. How would you describe a person in this condition?

b. If Satan has them, what should we do?

#### Conclusion

1. As you go back and survey the **7 aspects** of the ministry of the local church, you can now see how important you are to the work here in our area.

2. The ministry is no place for **loafers** and **shirkers. Why?**

3. What should we all do together as God's laborers in His kingdom?