

Study: A Useful Vessel

Text: 2 Timothy 2:14-19

OUR PREPARATION FOR USEFULNESS

Memory verse: 2 Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet [*useful*] for the **Master's** use, and prepared unto every good work.

Q: Are you willing to be a useful vessel for God's work?

† **Our Pursuit—To be a USEFUL Vessel (2 Timothy 2:20-23)**

The first two messages dealt with our *pursuit* of being a useful vessel. First by looking at the *conditions* for usefulness. We noted that God wants a vessel that is *separated* from sin and sinful influences; He wants an *honorable* vessel that is valuable to His work; He wants a vessel that is *set apart* to serve Him; He wants a vessel that is *profitable* to His work; and He wants a vessel that is *ready* to do His work.

In the second message we considered the *characteristics* of a useful vessel. A useful vessel will *flee* like a fugitive from sin; he will *follow after*, passionately pursuing Christlike qualities; and he will faithfully *fellowship* with those who are seeking to be useful vessels.

† **Our Preparation—To be a USEFUL Vessel (2 Timothy 2:14-19)**

Q: How do we prepare for usefulness?

Q: What do we need to do to be faithful, on a daily basis, at being useful for the Lord?

The KEY to usefulness is how we _____ God's Word.

I. A _____ Charge (v. 14-16)

By Paul telling Timothy that this is a solemn charge before the Lord is shows Timothy's _____ to God.

A. Against _____ talk (v. 14 & 16)

v. 14 - This word translated "*subverting*" comes from the Greek word "*katastrophé*." Instead of being profitable these words are catastrophic.

v. 16 - These discussions are useless and unprofitable. They grow in _____—spreading like gangrene and cancer.

B. About _____ God's teaching (v. 15)

This word "*study*" carries the idea of _____ or giving maximum effort.

The idea here is that of _____—it is submitting to God's approval.

II. A Sad _____ (v. 17-18)

A. They _____ from truth (v. 18)

You can spot a COUNTERFEIT by knowing what the REAL thing is.

If you don't know what _____ is then you will not know what _____ is.

Failing to _____ and DILIGENTLY study God's Word leads naturally to a deviation from it.

B. The _____ results (v. 17)

This word "*canker*" is literally *gangrene* which eats healthy flesh.

III. A _____ Challenge—_____ this! (v. 19)

Notice the guarantee—"having this seal." This is a stabilizing truth—it is a truth that should stabilize your Christian walk.

A. Know what is _____

The "*foundation of God*" is firm. It is the Church, the "*pillar and ground of truth*" (1 Timothy 3:15).

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:11)

B. Know what God _____

"The Lord knoweth them that are His." - This is a statement of blessing to those who live a repentant, humble life. To the disobedient this should bring fear and cause them to repent.

Cf. Psalm 139:1-6 -Know this to be true!!

C. Know what God _____

"...depart from iniquity" - To "*depart*" is to get away from something and that something is "*iniquity*" or sin. This phrase speaks of *purity*.

The question that we must ask ourselves is: "What are the influences of my life?" Am I allowing truth or error to influence me?

Q: What changes do you need to make in order to be a MORE faithful, useful vessel?

What is my next step? "*Put off,*" "*renew your mind,*" and "*put on.*"