

Study: A Useful Vessel

Text: 2 Timothy 2:22-23

OUR PURSUIT—THE CHARACTERISTICS

Mission Statement: *to passionately serve GOD and to compassionately serve others—ALL to the glory of GOD!*

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: Have you ever considered your usefulness to the Lord?

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

- I. The Conditions of a USEFUL Vessel (v. 21)
 - A. God wants a SEPARATED vessel
 - B. God wants an HONORABLE vessel
 - C. God wants a SAVED vessel
 - D. God wants a PROFITABLE vessel
 - E. God wants a READY vessel

II. The Characteristics of a USEFUL Vessel (v. 22-23)

Paul gives Timothy three specific actions to help him become more useful to the Lord. He is to *flee, follow, and fellowship*. In each of these areas we must learn to be _____ in applying them.

A. A useful vessel _____—what to run _____ (v. 22a & 23)

In context here, these “*lusts*” refer to _____ desires that are prominent during our youth.

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of **God**, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Why should Timothy run from these “*youthful lusts*?”

1. Because you are _____

2 Corinthians 3:5 “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves;...”

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will [*the desire*] is present with me; but *how* to perform [*the ability*] that which is good I find not.

The reality is that God created us as dependent creatures.

In **John 15:5**, Jesus says, “...for without Me ye can do _____.”

Philippians 2:13 For it is **God** which worketh [*energizes/ putting forth His power*] in you both to will [*desire*] and to do [*the power*] of **His** good pleasure [*perfect will*]. (Cf. 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:13)

2. Because of the _____ (2 Timothy 2:23)

Q: How do these “*youthful lusts*” influence us? What affect do they have upon your walk with Christ and your relationship with others?

B. A useful vessel _____ after—what to run _____ (v. 22b)

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of **Christ Jesus**.

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of **God**, flee these things; and follow after [*pursue with a consuming passion*] righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

1. He pursues _____

A *useful* servant of God always seeks to do what is _____.

2. He pursues _____

It carries the idea of _____ to a person—in this context it is loyalty to God as we trust Him as well as being _____ in our actions toward others.

3. He pursues _____

This kind of “*love*” is _____.

It is a true mark of a disciple of Jesus (John 13:35).

4. He pursues _____

The goal of a *useful* servant of God is “*to live peaceably with all men*” (Romans 12:18).

C. A useful vessel _____—who to run _____ (v. 22c)

In order to continue and be a faithful, useful vessel our *fellowship* is paramount—who we *fellowship* with is of utmost importance.

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.*”