

## Equipped to be a Faithful Worker for the Gospel (Sept. 10)

(2 Timothy 2:14-26)

“Be a Servant of the Gospel”

I believe Paul is instructing Timothy on becoming a faithful servant of the gospel. He is equipping him on what to do and what dangers to avoid. James 2:26 states: **“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”** James is not saying that we are saved by our service, but that our service to the gospel ministry is a clear sign of our salvation. I believe we’ve made this life in Christ more difficult than it should be with formulas and strategies, and methods. I believe all of these have its place, but God is God and we are not. We must be desperate for His movement, and our service is His answer to a lost world. He uses us! I’m reminded of the American pastors who went to South Korea for a church growth conference. Their answer throughout the conference was we do three things: We pray, we share the gospel, and we disciple individuals to do the same. Simple, yet biblical. So being a servant of Christ isn’t rocket science, it’s just clinging to the Rock of Christ sincerely!

**I. A Servant Adheres to the Main Priority (2 Tim. 2:14-15)** What is our main priority? Sharing Jesus is our main priority. Paul lays out what to do and what not to do in these passages. Avoiding the quarreling of words, becoming useful in the use of God’s Word, and avoiding ungodliness should be our main priority. The main priority is the gospel! If you can be great at one thing, be great at making much of Jesus Christ! These verses show this priority!

a. Avoid worthless words (v.14) Titus 3:9 states: **“But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.”** Paul is telling Timothy to avoid minor arguments that have nothing to do with the gospel. An example would be us arguing about the return of Jesus. There are several end times theologies, called eschatology, the study of end times. While I believe it’s important to know the different interpretations, I do believe it should not side track us from the gospel, if anything it should ignite us for the gospel! A false teacher, and they were combating those, we are today as well, will lessen or cheapen the gospel. They will run away from the truth of the gospel! Today we see the false gospel of not needing to repent and turn to Christ. Repentance is biblical! Make the main thing the main thing, Christ is King, I’m not worried about the cha ching, our the gold on your ring, I’m only concerned with furthering the gospel so all the nations will sing His glory, that’s my story, we must deploy and destroy evil through the greatest message ever, the snakes head He will sever, I’m just happy to be on this endeavor forever making it all about Jesus who alone frees us from our sin, so that we all love Him! I hope this made you smile with a big grin.

b. Become an approved worker (v. 15) What is an approved worker? It is one who rightly handles the Word of God. Paul tells Timothy in his first letter (1 Timothy 4:7) to **“Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rater train yourself for godliness.”** When a person or a church downplays, or suggest that the Word of God isn’t reliable and relevant, than the person or church has forsaken the powerful promises of God. The person or church is headed for a

downward sprawl. That is why it is so important that we preach the Word, believe the Word, and do the Word! Love must be accompanied with the truth of God's Word. The truth will look like hatred for those who hate the truth, but the most loving thing we can do is share the truth of God's Word with love! Many in our culture today do not see the power of God's Word, yet it is still all powerful! Look at the phrase in verse 15 "who has no need to be ashamed..." The Word of God gives us courage, it thrust us onward! It propels us on mission." What was happening in Paul's day is nothing different than our day today. What you see is described in the next few verses.

## II. A Servant Affirms God's Power (2 Tim. 2:16-21)

a. Avoid the wicked (vv. 16-18) The false teachers are: people pleasers, those who minimize the gospel, those who desire to build an earthly kingdom, those who willfully twist scripture to justify sin, those who feed emotions, and those who compromise the truth. Avoid these people!

b. Jesus gives us assurance of worth (vv. 19-21) Our purpose is to proclaim Him! We are to shine for Jesus and no one else! Those who are not His, will not shine for Christ! I love the gospel because I am His! I have worth because I am His! Are you His? Your worth is only determined upon who Christ is in your life! If He is only an acknowledgment, you are not worth much! If He is your everything, than you are worth everything to Him for eternity!

## III. A Servant Advances in Pursuit of Christ (2 Tim. 2:22-26) I'm reminded of the Psalm 42:1 "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pant my soul for you, O God."

a. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace (v. 22) This verse is a great reminder of the fruit of the Spirit! Listen to Galatians 5:22 "***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.***"

b. Pursue teaching the truth in kindness and gentleness (vv. 23-26) The Christian must never treat those under false teaching as the enemy or as irretrievably lost. We see in Saul to Paul's transformation that God is more than able to save what we've labeled as an un-savable person. Jim Shaddix said: "In evangelism, We are not calling the enemy to defect, we are rescuing POWs."

What does a servant look like? Romans 8:29 tells us "***For those who he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.***" Being conformed to the image of Christ, is the answer! If we are not becoming servants for Him, we are not saved by Him.

A Servant Adheres to the Main Priority

A Servant Affirms God's Power

A Servant Advances in Pursuit of Christ

Every time the Word of God is preached it demands a response!