

2 Timothy 2:14-26

7-17-05

“Victorious Vessels!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. What are the Christians *answer, attitude, & approach* toward **Evil things & Enemies of the truth?**

2. **jhghgjj! (14-26)**

- 2.1. **WORD-WARRING!** (14)
- 2.2. **Strive** = battle, to wage a war. A war of words!
- 2.2.1. We are warned **NOT** to do this saints!
- 2.2.2. Stay away from petty arguments. Stick to essentials!
- 2.2.3. **Why?** – Because the results are **no profit**, & **possibly ruin hearers**.
- 2.3. **WORD-WARRIORS!** (15)
- 2.4. **Be Diligent!**
- 2.5. **Be Diligent!** - God has **hidden** every precious thing in such a way that it is **a reward to the diligent, a prize to the earnest, but a disappointment to the slothful soul**.
- 2.5.1. The **pearl** is buried beneath the ocean waves;
- 2.5.2. The **gold** is imprisoned in the rocky heart of the mountains;
- 2.5.3. The **gem** is found only after you crush the rock which encloses it;
- 2.5.4. The **soil** gives its harvest as a reward to the laboring farmer.
- 2.5.5. The **nut** is hidden in its hard case;
- 2.5.6. **So truth and God must be earnestly sought**. - The most beneficial study of God’s Word requires **diligence and perseverance**, but the results are worth the effort.¹
- 2.5.7. **Q:** What is the best tasting nut in the world? (macadamia nut for sure!)
- 2.5.8. The Macadamia is the **hardest nut in the world to crack**, requiring **300 pound per square inch of pressure** to break the shell!
- 2.5.8.1. One nut cracker machine...shoots the nut with a speed of **400 mph** against an anvil. This action knocks the kernel off but does not yet break the shell. A thousand of a second later a piston breaks open the shell.
- 2.5.8.2. We are to be *Macadamia Nut Ministers!*
- 2.6. **Be Approved by God!** - Obtain Gods approval.
- 2.7. **Be a Workman!** - With no reason to be ashamed.
- 2.8. **Be Accurate!** - In developing the truth.

¹Adapted from A. B. Simpson; from Streams in the Desert.

- 2.9. **Rightly dividing** “correctly handling” – ὀρθοτομέω(*orthotomeo*)
- 2.9.1. Ortho = straight. {orthopedic, orthodontics, orthodoxy}
- 2.9.2. Impart the Word Timothy...w/o deviation, straight, undiluted.
- 2.9.3. *Implies cutting through, to cut a straight line/or road, plowing a straight furrow, a mason squaring & cutting a stone.*
- 2.9.4. **“Get it straight & Give it straight!”** (Kent Hughes)
- 2.9.5. **Church requirement** – Every **Church** should be a Bible School, where the Word of God is *taught* accurately.
- 2.9.6. **Individual requirement** – Every **Christian** should be a Bible Student, where the Word of God is *studied* accurately.
- 2.10. **A GANGRENE GOSPEL!** (16-19)
- 2.11. **What to Avoid!**
- 2.12. (17) **Cancer** = γάγγραινα (gangrene) {what a repulsive metaphor}
- 2.12.1. **Death of tissue:** death and decay of soft tissues of the body as a result of lack of blood to the area.
- 2.12.2. **Various causes:** including extreme heat or cold, obstruction of blood vessels by disease or a blood clot, or a neurological disorder.
- 2.12.2.1. **Isn't this the exact problem with false teaching?**
- 2.12.2.2. **[1]** Lack of blood(Jesus'). **[2]** They are never balanced, but are always at an extreme(Blistering Hot, or Frigid Cold).
[3] Causing “**obstructions**” in peoples lives.
- 2.12.2.3. They have a “*Malaria Message, a Dengue Doctrine, & accompanied by a Tetanus Teaching.*”
- 2.12.3. Their infection oozed w/heresy!²
- 2.12.4. **Hymenaeus & Philetus** were “carriers” of this dangerous infection.
- 2.12.5. One remedy for false doctrine that eats like cancer?...**Healthy doctrine!**
- 2.12.6. So, a repulsive metaphor for a repulsive message!
- 2.13. (18) **Resurrection past?** – Not speaking of Jesus’ but the final res.
- 2.14. (19) **A double seal/inscription!**
- 2.15. **God knows His own.**
- 2.15.1. Numb.16:3(LXX) – Paul references a famous event in Israel’s history, the rebellion of Korah.
- 2.15.2. The Levites Korah, & Dathan, & Abiram + 250 other leaders rose up against Moses & Aaron. “**The whole community is holy...& the Lord is w/them.**”
- 2.15.3. Moses fell on his face before God & said, “**In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to Him & who is holy.**”
- 2.15.4. Earth split apart swallowed their tents, livestock, & families.

² Kent Hughes; pg.211

- 2.15.5. The others fled, so God consumed them w/a fire come down from heaven, incinerating them.
 2.15.5.1. **Now**, tie this in with what was happening between Paul & Timothy & their teachings vs. Hymenaeus & Philetus.
- 2.16. **His own ought to be known by others by their godly lives.**
 2.16.1. Our calling is to live in a way that honors Him.
 2.16.2. Any sin you need to depart from. **Leave it today!**
 2.16.3. “Those who would take comfort in the 1st inscription must take responsibility for the 2nd.
 2.16.4. Knowing the deep things about God demands deep things from us.³
- 2.17. **VICTORIOUS VESSELS!** (20,21)
- 2.18. The **visible** church on earth, has always been & will continue to be a mixture of **true believers**(gold & silver vessels) & **false teachers** (wood & earthenware).
 2.18.1. Those who **cleanse themselves**(*forsake false teaching*) will be vessels of honor used in the service of the lord.
 2.18.2. This is the biblical doctrine of separation.
- 2.19. **Present your body as a clean vessel to God.**
 2.19.1. What if you went to a friend’s house one day and wanted a glass of water. You go into the kitchen and see all across the counter numerous glasses. As you look closer, you see that every one is dirty—lipstick, old cocoa, mold, food, etc. But behind the sink you notice a peanut butter jar that is sparkling clean. **What would you use to drink out of?**
 2.19.2. God is no dumber than we!
- 2.20. (21) **Keep yourself in a useable condition for the Lord.**
- 2.21. Robert Murray McCheyne, to a young ministerial student:
 2.21.1. How diligently the cavalry officer keeps his **sabre clean and sharp**.
 2.21.2. **Every stain** he rubs off with the greatest care.
 2.21.3. Remember you are God’s sword, His instrument, a chosen vessel unto Him to bear His name. - In great measure, according to the purity and perfection of the instrument, will be the success.
 2.21.4. It is not **great talents** God blesses so much as **likeness to Jesus**.
 2.21.5. **A holy minister is an awful weapon** in the hand of God. [Robert Murray McCheyne, to a young ministerial student]
- 2.22. **Sanctified** – made holy, set apart, for a special purpose before God.
 2.22.1. **“sanctify the Lord God in your hearts”** 1 Pet.3:15

³ Ibid; pg.213

- 2.23. **Useful** – obviously our level of **consecration** can affect our level of **usefulness** to God.
- 2.24. **Prepared** – to do any good work(NIV).
- 2.25. **Contrast between paper plates and fine china.**
 2.25.1. **Paper plates** are **used once**, and **thrown away**.
 2.25.2. **Fine china** is **used** and **washed** and **reused**.
- 2.26. **RUN, RUN!** (22)
- 2.27. **Flee!** – **Run Away!** *Flee as fast as your feet will fly!*
 2.27.1. Sins of the flesh are never to be reasoned with.
 2.27.1.1. It would be like reasoning with a tornado!
 2.27.2. Run from it...not see how close you can get to it.
 2.27.2.1. What would you think of the man who went as near as he could to **burning down his house**, just to test how much fire it would stand?
 2.27.2.2. Or one who **cut himself w/a knife** to see how deep he could go w/o mortally wounding himself?
 2.27.2.3. Or one who experimented as to **how large a quantity of poison** he could take?
 2.27.2.4. So is the man who tries to see **how much sin he may indulge in** & yet be saved.⁴
- 2.28. **Pursue!** - **Run To!** Sprint towards. Chase after. Hunt these 4 virtues.
 2.28.1. **Pursue righteousness** – He must personally pursue ethical(right) conduct that glorifies God.
 2.28.2. **Pursue faith** – A combination of belief, plus trust in God.
 2.28.3. **Pursue love** – Namely, love for people. Love the saints, & when you run into circumstances where you realize that some saints are sinners, go on loving them w/all their faults & weaknesses.
 2.28.4. **Pursue peace** – Calm & harmony w/his people...in the company of other believers.
- 2.29. Ok, so **Running away from** is as important as **Running toward!**
 Fleeing is as important as Pursuing. Our **no** is as important as our **yes!**
Q: What should you flee, what should you chase?
- 2.30. **AVOID FOOLS!** (23-26)
- 2.31. Don't get sucked into fruitless controversy.
 2.31.1. **KRTM call in Q & A show.** See screen of callers. I scratched on my notebook & held up a note to the operator, "get rid of caller #10".
[explain who he was] {he never wanted an answer, he wanted a debate}

⁴ Spurgeon #2192

- 2.31.2. **Q:** How many times have you known it was one of those conversations...but continued anyway?
- 2.32. **How to win back the misled!** (24,25a)
- 2.32.1. **Be Gentle** – even to those who oppose or insult us.
 2.32.1.1. Often a greater argument than what we **say** is **how we bear** being differed from. (J.Sidlow Baxter)
- 2.32.2. **Able to teach** – **Not just apt to talk!** Having carefully compared the teachings of the Word on the subject.
 2.32.2.1. This takes time but it our decisive weapon.
- 2.32.3. **Patient** – when wronged. Not resentful.
- 2.32.4. **In Humility** – correct those in opposition, with no pride, or we'll prejudice them.
- 2.33. **Experience Repentance!** – if God perhaps will grant them repentance
- 2.34. **Know the truth** – and be set free!
- 2.35. **Sober Up!** - **Come to their senses.**
 2.35.1. LKGNT – The metaphor implies some previous duping by evil influences as in the case of **intoxication**.
 2.35.1.1. The devil loves to *numb the conscience*.
- 2.36. **Escape the Snare!** – **escape the snare of the devil.**
 2.36.1. Win release of Satan's stronghold.
- 2.37. **What is our weapon in all of this?**
- 2.37.1. Our **weapon** is the **Word**; but the vital handling of it is in the **spirit we show, & the way we behave.**
- 2.37.2. We need a **loving spirit & prayerful dependence** on the H.S.