

Sunday, August 11, 2019

The Pastoral Epistles

II Timothy 2:14-26 “¹⁴Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.¹⁹ But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

Ministry keys:

1. People need to be reminded that fighting over words is detrimental.
2. Work hard to be able to keep yourself presentable to God:
 - 1 Being approved
 - 2 Being unashamed as a worker
 - 3 Being right in your handling of His Word
3. Steer clear of talk apart from Biblical doctrine (irreverent babble – gnostic teachings):
 - 1 It results in more ungodliness
 - 2 It spreads like *gangraina*.
 - 3 It has proponents (Hymenaeus and Philetus)
4. God knows who are His.
 - 1 Some of them are of great value to him.
 - 2 Some of them are of little value to him.
 - * You can change your status (“if anyone cleanses himself...”)
5. Flee from the desires of adolescence (eg. Food and sexual relations) and to godliness.

6. Ignore controversial issues that do not matter.
 - 1 Controversy leads to quarrels.
 - 2 Quarrels are not the character of a servant of God.
 - 3 God's servant is kind to all, can teach, is thick skinned, gentle in how he corrects or confronts.
7. You are the vessel God may use to divert the ungodly back toward godliness.