

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think are some doctrines on which Christians can differ without separating? On the other hand, what are some 'hills to die on'?
2. Can you think of times when doctrinal disputes between Christians (whether within your church or in another) were a discouragement to you or someone you knew? How might they have been handled in a more God-honoring way?
3. How can we encourage one another's faith when we see in-fighting among Christians?



Series: HONORABLE VESSELS—II Timothy 2:14-26

Lesson: Part 1 – Only Sticks and Stones...?

Passage: II Tim. 2:14-19

- How to Be an _____ (w14-15)

¹⁴ *Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.* ¹⁵ *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

- 'Solemnly charge in the presence of God' (I Tim. 5:21, 6:13, II Tim. 4:1)
- Don't λογομαχέω [lōgōmachēō] ('word-fight') because it will lead to καταστροφή [katastrōphē] (catastrophe) for the hearers.
- 'Be diligent' = σπουδάζω [spoudazō] = to be especially conscientious in discharging an obligation; be eager (cf. 4:9)
- 'Accurately handling' = ὀρθοτομέω [ōrthōtōmēō] = to cut straight/correctly
- The Point: An unashamed workman handles the Word of Truth well, as opposed to those who cause 'catastrophe' for their listeners by fighting about words instead of teaching them the meaning of The Word.

- **What Leads to _____ (vv16-18)**

¹⁶ But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymeneus and Philetus, ¹⁸ men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

- Outline of I Tim. 1:
 - 1-2: Address/Greeting
 - **3-7: Exhortation to keep others from teaching unbiblical doctrines and focusing on insignificant issues that distract from God's intentions.**
 - 8-11: The Law is good and made for sinners (with list of examples)
 - 12-17: Paul's gratitude that Christ Jesus came to save sinners, especially him
 - 18-20: Exhortation to keep 'fighting the good fight' of faith, as opposed to those who have 'shipwrecked' **their faith, including Hymeneus and Alexander**
- The issue here: the heresy that our _____ is purely spiritual and what it leads to in people's lives when how they live no longer matters (Matt. 5:17)

- We're supposed to work out our salvation with 'fear and trembling' (Phil. 2:12)
- The Gospel is not merely an idea; it is a change to one's _____. (Rom. 12:1-2)

- **Our _____ in the Face of Division (v19)**

¹⁹ Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

- Seal #1 – The One Who's Really in Charge knows who is in the right. (Num. 16:5)
- Seal #2 – Those who are His will live _____ lives.

What do we do with this text?

1. Keep the _____ the _____.
2. Don't forget that we are part of a _____.

Blanks: Approved Workman, Ungodliness, Resurrection, nature, Assurance, changed, Main Thing(x2), body