

## 2 Timothy: The Good Fight *Finishing Well in Christ*

### Lesson 42—2 Timothy 2:20-26

*Continuing from our last study...*

#### **Prayer**

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times. The depth of theology is so great that I would strongly advise using the New Living Translation for one of your Scripture readings.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Though this week's study is on 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:20-26, begin your reading from chapter 2:14 through v.26 to grasp the overall content of what Paul is writing.*

#### **Scripture Meditation/Memorization**

One of the most fundamental and rewarding Christian disciplines that pays back in full spiritual dividends is Bible meditation/memorization. It is an absolutely fundamental in the formation of your spiritual development, spiritual walk and faith growth. In Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT), the Psalmist warrior, King David said,

*“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.  
But they delight in the law of the Lord,  
meditating on it day and night.”*

**Memory Verse**

*"[20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. [21] Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."*—**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:20-21 (NKJV)**

**Study Format**

We have all had weeks in which the time available for preparation of our Bible study evaporates under an unexpected event or a pressing project at work. To enable everyone to complete the study, even when time is at a premium, questions are being divided into two categories: essential and expanded. The Essential Questions are those necessary to understand key points of the passage. The Expanded Questions or growth questions help expand knowledge and gain deeper insight into the Scripture.

If you are concerned about having enough time to complete the whole study, it is suggested that you start by first answering the Essential Questions for each day and answer the Expanded Questions as time permits.

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**2 Timothy 2:20-26—*Becoming a an Honourable Vessel***

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, he was approximately 30 years older than Timothy, who was likely in his mid-30s. Conduct counts, and Paul has given 11 imperatives, directives, or orders to Timothy in this chapter to help guide him to live a godly life and guide him to success in ministry.

**Essential Questions:**

1. J. Vernon McGee, in commenting on verses 20–21, says that while a gold goblet might be nice, he would rather drink from a clean clay cup if the goblet is filthy. After reading Romans 9:21 share what these verses mean to you.

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2. It has been said that nature abhors a vacuum. Your heart will be filled with something; either righteous and godly or evil and wicked. Note: “evil desires of youth” implies selfish ambition, pride, and others, as well as sexual sins. Flee

(Greek *phuego* from which we get the English word *fugitive*) speaks of being continually on the run from lust.

- a. Like Joseph with Potiphar’s wife in Genesis 39, what should we run from and what should we run to?

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- b. What similar advice does Paul give Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:11–12?

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- c. Jesus shares the fate of a man who overcame sin but failed to properly fill the void left behind. What do you learn from Luke 11:24–26?

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- 3. The story was told of a woman who came up to D.L. Moody and severely criticized him for the way he presented the gospel. Moody then asked the woman how she shared the gospel with others. She responded that she hadn’t shared the gospel with anyone to which Moody responded, “I prefer the way I share the gospel to the way you don’t share the gospel.” From verses 23–26 what additional advice does Paul offer regarding how to handle church controversies?

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**Expanded Question:**

4. \*How does a Christian become an “empty vessel”?<sup>1</sup>

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a. What steps do we need to take for God to be able to use us most effectively?

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b. How does Paul speak to the specifics of this in 2 Timothy 2:22-26?

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5. \*What qualities should characterize God’s servant? Give an example of each (vv. 24-26).<sup>2</sup>

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6. \*What do you need to pursue in order to be a more godly worker? Choose something to concentrate on this week.<sup>3</sup>

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7. Paul had warned the elders of the church of Ephesus before Timothy was Bishop in Acts 20:29–30 that false teachers would arise from within the church. What

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<sup>1</sup> Question taken from *The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*, published by David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, CO, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Stott, J., & Johnson, L. (1998). [2 Timothy: Standing Firm in Truth](#) (p. 31). Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press; IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press.

<sup>3</sup> *IBID*

do we learn from the following verses about standing upon principles yet maintaining unity within the church?

a. Romans 12:18

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b. 1 Peter 3:15 (“reason” is *apologia* in Greek from which we get the word *apologetics*)

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### ***Lesson 42 Summary/Take Away***

If one of your friends at work or a neighbor were to ask you what you did on Tuesday, you would tell them you went to a Bible study. The next question would likely be, “What did you learn?” We often summarize an entire athletic contest or a movie in a few brief sentences and easily convey the essence of the event. Now apply these same skills to give a summary of the passage in a sentence or two. Then, in an additional sentence or two, describe what impact this passage will have on how you live.

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### ***Memory Verse***

*“[20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. [21] Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”—2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:20-21 (NKJV)*

## Key Words/Phrases

Write out the definition of these key words. You can use a regular dictionary or go to one of the Greek sources listed in the Tool Box at the end of the study. You may also use a concordance to see where else and how the word is used in the Bible.

Vessel of Honour (2 Timothy 2:21)

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## Tool Box

**Step 1: The Bible.** Read the passage in a couple of different versions. If you are having trouble understanding a passage, choose a more dynamic version such as *New Living Translation*. To focus in on the exact meaning of a verse, choose a more literal translation such as *New King James Version*, *New American Standard Bible* or *English Standard Version*. *The Amplified Bible* is another excellent version.

**Step 2: Study Tools.** Use these to help you dig deeper. Background Information: 1) Unger's Bible Dictionary, 2) Bible Dictionaries online at biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.com. (recommend both David Guzik and Chuck Smith's commentaries/study notes); Word Studies: 1) Zodhiates' *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, 2) Vine's *Complete Expository Dictionary*, and 3) Strong's *Dictionary of Bible Words*.

**Step 3: Commentaries.** Commentaries should not be used in place of studying God's Word directly, but they can give you additional insights. Some good commentaries include: Warren Wiersbe, J. Vernon McGee, F.F. Bruce, *the Expositors Bible Commentary*, *NIV Application Commentary*, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (edited by Walvoord & Zuck), *the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, and William Barclay (\*great for background and culture, but be careful of his spiritual applications).

**Step 4: Online Assistance.** Should you have a specific question about the study please e-mail your inquiry to: [mannygwcm@gmail.com](mailto:mannygwcm@gmail.com)

