

2 Timothy 2:14 –26

Vs 14 The preceding verses are the basics we should not stray from, things that bear repeating: vs8 the gospel, vs9 power of the Word, vs10 endure for others salvation, vs11 die with Him to live with Him, vs12 endure so you can reign, if you disown Him, He will disown you, vs13 if you fall short He is still faithful as He wont disown Himself. Once you get outside these basics we find ourselves quarreling over words. DON'T DO THAT! It is of no value and ruins those who listen! What a warning! Discussion of differences is one way to increase your understanding of doctrine and to broaden your knowledge of the Word. Remember what is foundational and what is not. But quarreling is of no help to anyone. 2Pt 1:12,13 We need to review the basics.

Vs 15 This is so often disconnected with the previous verse. Don't use the word to quarrel or get your way, but to heal and instruct, to bring life. Know the word so you can dispense it in the way God intended – not to prove your pet doctrine. Know the word so you can be changed by it as its light convicts of sin in your own life.

"Do your best", again Paul uses phrases that imply a discipline of our nature and an all out effort. Cooperation with the Spirit is a yielding to the life of Christ, but it should be with all our being. Consider the athlete, soldier, farmer and the effort expended. Don't expect the Spirit to feed you when you will not open your Bible. This is about a workman and his best effort. Mt 13:52

Vs 16,17 We are to avoid the pseudo-spiritual talk of the false teachers. When you see their teaching does not line up with the Word there is no need to listen anymore. It is like a disease or poison that eats you alive. Luke must have filled Paul in on how this poison rots away the body slowly working its way to the heart and then taking your life. What a description of false teaching!

Vs 18 False teaching often begins with some speculation to make things seem logical to you and then teaching your head knowledge as some enlightened truth. That can end up a tool in the enemies hands to rob people of faith.
2 Peter 2:18-22

Vs 19 Here is that foundational stuff. God knows his own (quoting Nu 16:5) You can fake out man but God knows the heart. If you are saved you should be growing in grace and godliness. (Ps 97:10) This foundation should check the heart of anyone considering some false teaching. This is what leads me to believe their teaching included permissiveness to indulge in some sensual pleasure. Most cults founded by these false teachers end up there eventually, for they stem from doctrines of demons.

Vs 20,21 It seems to me that Paul is saying we can live a holy life that is available for special purposes. We have an influence in how we are used according to how we prepare our heart for service by God's grace. A purified vessel is available for those gold and silver uses. I believe God prefers to work through people but often can find no fit (yielded) vessel for the good work He would do. Excuse me for saying this but it may be Paul's implication is that last night's bedpan was still smelly. We are to clean ourselves of our former uses so we can be a vessel of gold and silver uses. These false teachers are toilet vessels. At the time many were seeking the alchemist method of changing a common substance to gold. Man can't do this but God can. Here again is that combination of cleansing ourselves and God making us holy. 1 Cor 3:16,17

Vs 22 1 Tim 6:11 And here is how to purify yourself so you can be used for noble purposes. Occasionally Paul drops a set of how to. This one is for the young Christian worker like Timothy but it can apply to us all. 1. Flee youthful lust. Run from it. 2. Pursue righteousness. Not that imparted at salvation but that way of expressing it in our life. Chase it like the immoral chase their lust. Go after it like a prize of a lifetime because it is. Other pursuits of life, faith – believing the unseen, love- agape love of God, peace – with God and man. You can't do it alone, you must do it with others who are after the Lord out of a pure heart. They keep you accountable, encourage you, and pray for you and you should do the same for them. Ps 119:9

Vs 23 Paul hits the point again. It must have been a real problem. My rule of thumb is that when you show them plainly in Scripture but instead of addressing those passages they want to go to others that would seem to prove their point, they are not interested in the whole counsel of God. The Word has clearly been presented and ignored or rejected and I am done. Many of the points people would argue are not the basics anyway and are really not worth getting worked up over. The two most popular unresolvable arguments today are election versus grace which goes into eternal security versus losing your salvation, and when the rapture occurs. You may have an opinion but don't argue over it. Titus 3:9

Vs 24 –26 What a wonderful description of a Spirit led person. Instead of quarrelling they are kind to everyone, able to teach from the Word. They don't hold grudges. When someone opposes them they gently respond in love, for they desire to win them to Jesus. They desire to see them set free from the bondage of Satan's lies. The opposition is to be pitied for they are Satan's slave and often unwittingly so. We just want them to see the light not prove we are right. The balance is Jude 1:3 We should not stand for heresy to go unchallenged.