

# 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

TIME ALONE WITH GOD

LESSON 4

## GROUNDING YOURSELF

Read over the following four phrases from 2:21

- *Instruments for special purposes; Made holy; Useful to the Master; Prepared to do any good work*

Now take a moment in prayer with those phrases specifically in mind. Let them lead you into your time with the Lord today.

## GRASPING THE SCRIPTURES

**Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26** (feel free to look up a few different translations)

-Do you notice any repeating themes in this passage? What is Paul getting at? What is he addressing here and how does he go about making this message known?

-Paul makes claims throughout the first part of this passage (14-19) about the consequences of not following in the path of righteousness he is laying out. What do you see at stake here? Write down what Paul says happens to those who don't do as God intends.

-In verse 22, Paul writes, "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels." What do you see as the difference between "foolish and stupid arguments" and "quarrels"? Why might Paul draw a distinction between the two?

-Make a list of all God specifically tells Timothy to do in this passage. If you were to make an action item list after reading this, what would that look like? What tangible, practical steps are we called to take (or not take) in light of Paul's writing here?

-Re-read verse 14 and then read the following excerpt from The Letters to Timothy (Barclay, 172):

*"The normal word for building a person up in the Christian faith, for edification, is the same as is used for literally building a house; the word which Paul uses here for "ruin" (katastrophe) is what might well be used for the demolition of a house. And it may well happen that clever, subtle, speculative, intellectually reckless discussion may have the effect of demolishing, and not building up, the faith of some person who happens to become involved in it. As in all things, there is a time to discuss and a time to be silent.."*

-Paul tell us it is can be a katastrophe to quarrel about words. Rather than seeing this as a blanket statement that prevents us from ever defending the gospel, it is instead helpful to read Paul's call in light of the whole passage. When you do so, how might you then understand Paul's warning? What kind of discussions are damaging rather than building up?

## GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY

This passage pushes against false teachers who oppose the gospel. It also calls for God's workers to be able to correctly handle the truth (2:15) and able to teach it (2:24). This week, take a step in that direction. Practice sharing the gospel with a friend or family member, or be brave and share with someone who doesn't know the gospel. But here's the kicker: make it clear while making it your own.

If you prefer writing it out, write it out. If you like to draw and use symbols and illustrations, do so. If you're an oral processor, speak. If it's poetry or song, then create. In whatever way feels natural and right, take a step in correctly making God and his gospel known through you, his instrument and servant.

USE THIS LESSON TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCT 22

# 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

TIME WITH OTHERS

LESSON 4

## GLEANNING INSIGHT FROM OTHERS

### **To work through with a small group**

*We encourage you to begin your time by reading through the passage aloud and closing your time in prayer with one another.*

- Is there a tool or device or instrument you're especially good with? Perhaps it's some kitchen utensil or fancy tech-savvy gadget. What comes to mind? Tell us about it.
- If you had to explain our passage today to a child, how would you do it? What would you say? Hopefully this exercise helps you pick out the main points and themes.
- What did you see as the major consequences of not walking in line with Paul's warnings in this passage? What is at stake? What damages could be done?
- Paul calls us to "correctly handle the truth" (2:15). As a group, go back through Paul's writing in 2 Timothy up to this point. If you could only use the first two chapters of this letter to share the gospel, what would you highlight in Paul's writing? How and where has he presented the gospel clearly so far in this letter?
- In our lives, what do Paul's warnings against words and quarreling actually look like? Where do you see this potentially causing harm in our day and age? How can we guard against this and become "kind to everyone" and "not resentful" (2:24)?
- In the "Getting Your Hands Dirty" section on the front side of this page, you were asked to present the gospel in a way that felt natural to you. What did that look like? Were you able to share it? How did that go?
- What's something from this week's time in 2 Timothy that has left a mark on you? (something you need to think about more, something you want to talk with someone about, something you want to put into practice, etc)

## GUIDING OTHERS

### **To work through with Family & Friends**

*The idea behind this section is to give parents a few questions they could talk through with their kids at the dinner table or while tucking them in at night. But this is not limited to parents of young children. These questions could be discussed with folks of any age.*

#### **Read 2 Timothy 2:21 (ERV)**

"The Lord wants to use you for special purposes, so make yourself clean from all evil. Then you will be holy, and the Master can use you. You will be ready for any good work."

#### **Talk about it:**

1. What does Paul tell us to do so we can be ready for any good work?
2. How do you make yourself clean from all evil?

*1 John 1:9 - "But, if we confess our sins, God will forgive us. We can trust God to do this. He always does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done."*

3. What is a good work you know God wants you to do this week?

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