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2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

In Your Group Read 2 Timothy chapter two (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2 King James Version

2 TIMOTHY 2: [1] Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **[2]** And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. **[3]** Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **[4]** No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. **[5]** And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. **[6]** The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. **[7]** Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. **[8]** ¶ Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: **[9]** Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. **[10]** Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. **[11]** It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: **[12]** If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: **[13]** If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. **[14]** ¶ Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. **[15]** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **[16]** But shun profane

and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. [17] And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; [18] Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. [19] ¶ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. [20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. [21] If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. [22] ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [23] But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. [24] And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, [25] In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; [26] And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

**2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2
VERSES 1-2**

2 Timothy 2: [1] Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. [2] And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (King James Version)

¹O Timothy, my son, be strong with the strength Christ Jesus gives you. ²For you must teach others those things you and many others have heard me speak about.

Teach these great truths to trustworthy men who will, in turn, pass them on to others.

(The Living Bible)

So, my son, be strong in the grace that Christ Jesus gives. Everything that you have heard me teach in public you should in turn entrust to reliable men, who will be able to pass it on to others. (verses 1-2) **(Phillips Translation)**

[1] As for you, my son, be strong through the grace that is ours in union with Christ Jesus. **[2]** Take the words that you heard me preach in the presence of many witnesses, and give them into the keeping of men you can trust, men who will be able to teach others also. **(Today's English Version)**

[1] Accept the strength, my dear son, that comes from the grace of Christ Jesus. **[2]** You have heard everything that I teach in public; hand it on to reliable people so that they in turn will be able to teach others. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

Now therefore, my son, take strength from the grace of God which is ours in Christ Jesus. You heard my teaching in the presence of many witnesses; put that

teaching into the charge of men you can trust, such men as will be competent to teach others. (verses 1-2) **(New English Bible)**

[1] So you, my son, be strong by means of the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **[2]** And what you have heard from me through many witnesses, this commit to reliable men who will be able to teach others as well **(Berkeley Version)**

[1] As for you, my son, receive power from the wonderful, undeserved favor that is *ours* in Christ Jesus. **[2]** The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, hand on to those you can trust and who are able to teach others too. **(The New Translation)**

[1] As for you, my son, continue to be strong in your stand for the truth, with all the strength at your disposal thru the undeserved kindness of Christ Jesus. **[2]** And the foundation truths of our faith, which you heard me declare so often in the presence of many witnesses, those same truths you must now teach to trustworthy men who are qualified to teach them to others also. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 1) - "Be strong" literally means **"be empowered."** **"In the grace."** Grace also means God's power in some instances, as in this text. His unmerited favor carries with it an enabling power, rather than our power (Disciple's Study Bible, p. 1557).

(Verse 2) - "Things thou hast heard of me." During Timothy's many years of close association with Paul, he had heard divine truth which God had revealed through the apostle (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1806). Here is the ultimate goal of the ministry: pass it on (Liberty Bible Commentary, p.645). Paul establishes a pattern for the preservation of Divine truth. Apostolic teaching is to be passed on to succeeding generations without addition or alteration (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1853).

"Among many witnesses." These included Silas, Barnabas, Luke, and many others in the churches who could attest to the divine authenticity of Paul's teaching – a needed reminder to Timothy in light of the many defections at Ephesus (2 Timothy 1:15) (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1806).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2 VERSES 3-4

2 Timothy 2: [3] Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. [4] No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (King James Version)

[3] Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **[4]** No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. **(New International Version)**

³Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do; ⁴and as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army. **(The Living Bible)**

Join the ranks of those who bear suffering, like a loyal soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civil pursuits; his aim is to satisfy his commander. (verses 3-4) **(Moffatt Translation)**

[3] Share in the troubles that we have. Accept those troubles like a true soldier of Christ Jesus. **[4]** A person that is a soldier wants to please his commanding officer.

So that soldier does not use his time doing the things that most people do. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

[3] As a good soldier of Jesus Christ, you must demonstrate endurance in times of trial and hardship. **[4]** In the first place, no one truly engaged in warfare allows himself to get entangled in civilian affairs, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 3) – “Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus.”

Faithfulness to God’s truth would inevitably involve Timothy in suffering, even as it had Paul. Thus without varnishing Timothy’s prospects the mentor once again called on Timothy to share in hardship or suffering (2 Tim. 1:8; 4:5) for the sake of Christ (Jn. 15:18-20). Paul introduced three common illustrations to emphasize his point : a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer (2 Tim. 2:3-6; 1 Cor. 9:7, 24). A Roman soldier’s single-minded purpose, rigorous discipline, and unquestioning obedience to his commanding officer combine to make the figure of a soldier an apt one for a servant of Christ (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 752).

(Verse 4) – “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life.”

Deuteronomy 20:5-8 warns a man not to go to war if there are unsettled affairs in his life. The battle is serious and a soldier cannot be distracted by entanglements of the affairs of this life (Liberty Bible Commentary, p.645).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

VERSE 5

2 Timothy 2: [5] And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. (King James Version)

[5] An athlete who runs in a race cannot win the prize unless he obeys the rules. **(Today’s English Version)**

[5] Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. **(New International Version)**

[5] Again, no athlete wins a prize unless he abides by the rules. **(The Revised English Bible)**

[5] Again, a competitor in the games is not crowned unless he observes the rules. **(Moffatt Translation)**

[5] And also if a man is taking part in an athletic contest, he’ll never win the prize if he doesn’t follow the rules. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

Additional Information: “Strive for masteries.” The Greek verb (athleo) expresses the effort and determination needed to complete successfully in an athletic event (See 1 Cor. 9:24). This is a useful picture of spiritual effort and untiring pursuit of the victory to those familiar with events such as the Olympic games of Corinth (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1806).

“Strive lawfully.” The application of the figure is obvious: the emphasis is on discipline, a strict obedience of the rules (Helps for Translators, p. 78). All an athlete’s hard work and discipline will be wasted if he or she fails to compete according to the rules. This is a call to obey the Word of God in the pursuit of spiritual victory (Ibid., p. 1806).

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2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2
VERSES 6-7

2 Timothy 2: [6] The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. [7] Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. (King James Version)

[6] The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. **[7]** Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. **(New International Version)**

It's the diligent farmer who gets the produce. Think it over. God will make it all plain. (verses 6-7) **(The Message)**

[6] and again, it is the working farmer who has the first claim on any crop that is harvested. **[7]** Think over what I have said, and the Lord will show you how to understand it all. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[6] Likewise, a farmer knows he must first of all work hard if he expects to enjoy the fruits of a good harvest. **[7]** Think over what I've written here, and may the Lord help you to see how it all applies to you. **(The Last Days Bible)**

⁶Work hard like a farmer who gets paid well if he raises a large crop. ⁷Think over these three illustrations, and may the Lord help you to understand how they apply to you. **(The Living Bible)**

Additional Information: "The husbandman that laboureth." "Laboureth" is from a Greek verb meaning "to labor to the point of exhaustion." Ancient farmers worked long hours of backbreaking labor under all kinds of conditions, with the hope that their physical effort would be rewarded by a good harvest. Paul is urging Timothy not to be lazy or slothful, but to labor intensely (See Col. 1:28-29) with a view to the harvest (See 1 Cor. 3:5-8) (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p.1807). The athlete gets the crown only at the end of the race. The farmer reaps of his labors at the final harvest. These two analogies add a promise of future reward (Liberty Bible Commentary, p. 645).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2
VERSES 8-10

2 Timothy 2: [8] ¶ Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: [9] Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. [10] Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (King James Version)

[8] Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, **[9]** for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. **[10]** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. **(New International Version)**

[8] Don't forget the Descendant of David, Jesus Christ, who was raised from death. This is the Good News I tell. **[9]** Like a criminal I suffer for the gospel – even if it means prison! But, God's message has not been confined. **[10]** Why do I endure all of

these things? It is for the people chosen *by God*. I *want* them also to receive the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. **(The Simple English Bible)**

[8] Remember this! Jesus Christ, Who was born from the early family of David, was raised from the dead! This is the Good News I preach. **[9]** I suffer much and am in prison as one who has done something very bad. I am in chains, but the Word of God is not chained. **[10]** I suffer all things so the people that God has chosen can be saved from the punishment of their sin through Jesus Christ. Then they will have God's shining greatness that lasts forever. **(The New Life Testament)**

[8] Constantly keep in mind Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] risen from the dead, [as the prophesied King] descended from David, according to the good news (the Gospel) that I preach. [Ps. 16:10.] **[9]** For that [Gospel] I am suffering affliction *and* even wearing chains like a criminal. But the Word of God is not chained *or* imprisoned! **[10]** Therefore I [am ready to] persevere *and* stand my ground with patience *and* endure everything for the sake of the elect [God's chosen], so that they too may obtain [the] salvation which is in Christ Jesus, with [the reward of] eternal glory. **(Amplified New Testament)**

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2 VERSES 11-13

2 Timothy 2: [11] It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: [12] If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: [13] If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (King James Version)

[11] Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; **[12]** if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; **[13]** if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. **(New International Version)**

It is a sure word, that "If we have died with him, we shall live with him, if we endure, then we shall reign with him, if we disown him, then he will disown us, if we are faithless, he remains faithful" – for he cannot be untrue to himself. (verses 11-13) **(Moffatt Translation)**

[11] The saying is sure *and* worthy of confidence: If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him. **[12]** If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny *and* disown *and* reject Him, He will also deny *and* disown *and* reject us. **[13]** If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself. **(Amplified New Testament)**

[11] Here are some very true statements: If we have indeed died with Christ, we will also live with Him. **[12]** If we don't give up as true followers of the Lord, we will also reign with Him. But if we disown Him, He will also disown us. **[13]** But even if we are

unfaithful, He will always remain faithful, because He cannot be unfaithful to either His promises or His warnings. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verses 11-13) – Notice the personal pronoun “we” that is used in these verses.

(Verse 11) – “if we be dead with him.” The concept of dying with Christ is found in other places in the New Testament. Rom.6:3-8. (Helps for Translators, p. 80).

(Verse 12) - “We shall also live with him.” that is, eternal life in heaven. “If we suffer” means endure hardship and persecution. “If we deny him.” “If we say he is not Lord,” “if we do not believe in him.” “He also will deny us” at the Judgment (Matt. 10:33). (Ibid. p. 80).

“If we deny him, he also will deny us.” The Greek word for “deny” is *arneomai* and means “to reject anything, retract, renounce, deny, or disown.” ((Lexical Aid to the NT, p. 892). If we disown Him (Christ), He will also disown us speaks of the possibility of apostasy (See 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 10:38-39; 2 John 9) and the Lord’s ultimate rejection of those who professed Christ only temporarily (See Matt. 10:33) (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 754). “If we deny Him, He also will deny us:” speaks of a final, permanent denial, such as that of an apostate, not the temporary failure of a repentant believer like Peter (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1807) (See Matt. 26:69-75; Luke 22:31-32; James 5:19-20). **For more information on this subject see the article at the end of this chapter called “Personal Apostasy.”**

(Verse 13) – “If we believe not.” This is in the present tense indicating a settled state of refusing to believe in Jesus. “He abideth faithful.” He cannot deny His Word, promises, or warnings. He cannot deny Himself. He cannot recede from any word that He has spoken. To act in any other way would be inconsistent with His unchanging Nature (Heb. 10:23, 38-39).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2 VERSES 14-15

2 Timothy 2: [14] ¶ Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. [15] Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (King James Version)

¹⁴ Continue teaching these things, warning people in God’s presence not to argue about words. It does not help anyone, and it ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Make every effort to give yourself to God as the kind of person he will accept. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way. **(New Century Version)**

¹⁴ Don’t let anyone forget these things. And with God as your witness, you must warn them not to argue about words. These arguments don’t help anyone. In fact, they ruin everyone who listens to them. ¹⁵ Do your best to win God’s approval as a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed and who teaches only the true message.

(Contemporary English Version)

Warn them before God against pious nitpicking, which chips away at the faith. It just wears everyone out. Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won’t be ashamed of, laying out the truth plain and simple. (verses 14-15) **(The Message)**

[14] Remind them of this; and tell them in the name of God that there is to be no wrangling about words: all that this ever achieves is the destruction of those who are

listening. [15] Do all you can to present yourself in front of God as a man who has come through his trials, and a man who has no cause to be ashamed of his life's work and has kept a straight course with the message of the truth. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[14] Remind them (refers to believers, probably in Ephesus) of these facts and charge them in the presence of God to indulge in no wars of words; it helps no one and it completely upsets the listeners. [15] Do your utmost to present yourself to God approved, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly interpreting the message of the truth. **(Berkeley Version)**

[14] Remind [the people] of these facts and [solemnly] charge them in the presence of the Lord to avoid petty controversy over words, which does no good but upsets *and* undermines the faith of the hearers. [15] Study *and* be eager *and* do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing *and* accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth. **(Amplified New Testament)**

¹⁴Remind your people of these great facts, and command them in the name of the Lord not to argue over unimportant things. Such arguments are confusing and useless and even harmful. ¹⁵Work hard so God can say to you, "Well done." Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means. **(The Living Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 14) – "These things put them in remembrance." The instruction of the previous verses was not for Timothy only. Timothy was to keep reminding others of these things. The verb is a present imperative, which means that this was to be Timothy's regular practice (Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 754).

"**Strive not about words**" is one word in the Greek text, *logomacheo*. The corresponding noun is used at 1 Timothy 6:4. Both forms seem to imply quibbling over words and not seeking truth (Wycliffe Bible Commentary, p. 873). This is one of the characteristics of false teaching (See 1 Timothy 6:3-4). A human tendency is to avoid the demands of truth and to listen, rather, to what one wants to hear (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1859).

"**The subverting of the hearers.**" The Greek word for "subverting" is *katastrophe* and means *an overturn (catastrophe), that is, to tear down or smash*; figuratively it means *apostasy*. (See Strong's Lexicon). Because it replaces the truth with lies, false teaching can bring spiritual catastrophe to those who listen to it. The ruin can be eternal, because it destroys one's faith.

(Verse 15) – "**Study**" (Gk. *spoudazo*) is a word used of a workman or laborer, especially one who works with great effort. A Christian leader is one who must correctly handle the Word of truth. The image is that of laying out a road. To teach is to lay out a clearly marked pathway for others to walk. The Word of God can be abused as well as used correctly. It is always in danger of being distorted by false teaching and teachers who handle it wrongfully as Paul clearly states repeatedly in this letter.

"**Rightly dividing the word of truth**" (Gk. *orthotomeo*) meaning "to cut a straight course," or "lay out a road," or "correctly interpret." In other words, emphasize the main intent of the passage. What does the passage actually say? What did the author mean? (also known as the apostle's doctrine, Acts 2:42). All of the Word of God is true. You cannot add to nor take away any of it (Rev. 22:19). I personally do not believe that we should spin into a passage a doctrine that the early church did not know nor perceive. *Don W. Krow*

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2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2
VERSES 16-18

2 Timothy 2: [16] But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. [17] And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; [18] Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. (King James Version)

¹⁶Avoid godless, foolish discussions that lead to more and more ungodliness. ¹⁷This kind of talk spreads like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are examples of this. ¹⁸They have left the path of truth, preaching the lie that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; and they have undermined the faith of some. **(New Living Translation)**

¹⁶Steer clear of foolish discussions that lead people into the sin of anger with each other. ¹⁷Things will be said that will burn and hurt for a long time to come. Hymenaeus and Philetus, in their love of argument, are men like that. ¹⁸They have left the path of truth, preaching the lie that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; and they have weakened the faith of some who believe them. **(The Living Bible)**

But steer clear of these unchristian babblings, which in practice lead further and further away from Christian living. For their teachings are as dangerous as blood-poisoning to the body, and spread like sepsis from a wound. Hymenaeus and Philetus are responsible for this sort of thing, and they are men who are palpable traitors to the truth, for they say that the resurrection has already happened and, of course, badly upset some people's faith. (verses 16-18) **(Phillips Translation)**

[16] Keep away from godless and foolish discussions, which only drive people farther away from God. **[17]** What they teach will be like an open sore that eats away the flesh. Two of these teachers are Hymenaeus and Philetus. **[18]** They have left the way of truth and are upsetting the faith of some believers by saying that our resurrection has already taken place. **(Today's English Version)**

Avoid all that profane jargon, for it leads people still further into irreligion, and their doctrine spreads like a gangrene. So it is with Hymenaeus and Philetus; they have failed in the Truth by arguing that the resurrection has taken place already, and they are undermining some people's faith. (verses 16-18) **(Moffatt Translation)**

[16] Continue to avoid godless, empty chatter that has nothing to do with God and right living. The result of such hollow preaching only drives people farther away from God. **[17]** Such ineffective and spineless teaching will slowly eat away and spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are examples of such teachers. **[18]** They've strayed so far from the truth that now they're teaching that the time of the resurrection of the dead has already come and gone; as a result they are destroying the faith of some. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 16) – “shun profane and vain babblings.” See 1 Timothy 4:7 & 6:20-21.

(Verse 17) - “Their word.” “their teaching” or “their false teaching” (Helps for Translators, p. 82). **“Will eat as doth a canker.”** The idea is that these wrong and harmful teachings will spread quickly and

corrupt others (Ibid. p. 82). “Hymenaeus” had already been turned by Paul over to Satan that he may learn not to blaspheme (1 Timothy 1:20).

(Verse 18) - “Have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already.” The heresy of Philetus and Hymenaeus probably involved the idea that resurrection was a purely spiritual affair which occurred at conversion or baptism (Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 754). They probably spiritualized the resurrection of the future as the Gnostics of the day taught (Liberty Bible Commentary, p.647). They probably taught that believers’ spiritual identification with Christ’s death and Resurrection (Rom. 6:4, 5, 8) was the only resurrection they would experience and that had already happened. Such heretical teaching reflects the contemporary Greek philosophical view that matter was evil and spirit was good (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1808). This Gnostic belief denied the future bodily resurrection of Christians and affirmed instead a spiritual resurrection at conversion (Geneva Study Bible, p. 1920). One of the most dangerous heresies of the first two centuries of the church was Gnosticism. Its central teaching was that spirit is entirely good and matter is entirely evil. The reasoning was that, since matter – and not the breaking of God’s law (1 Jn. 3:4) – was considered evil, breaking his law was of no moral consequence. In Colossians and in John’s letters, acquaintance with early Gnosticism is reflected in 1, 2 Timothy, Titus, and 2 Peter and perhaps 1 Corinthians. John’s readers (in 1 Jn.) were confronted with an early form of Gnostic teaching of the Cerinthian variety. This heresy was also libertine, throwing off all moral restraints. Consequently, John wrote the letter of 1 John with two basic purposes in mind: (1) to expose false teaching and teachers (1 Jn. 2:26) and (2) to give believers assurance of salvation (1 Jn. 5:13). In keeping with his intention to combat Gnostic teachers, John specifically struck at their total lack of morality (1 Jn. 3:8-10) (NIV Study Bible, p. 1906).

“Overthrow the faith of some.” False teaching will overthrow the faith of some (See 2 Peter 2:1; Acts 20:28-31; 26-27).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

VERSE 19

2 Timothy 2: [19] ¶ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (King James Version)

[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.” **(New American Standard)**

[19] Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” **(New International Version)**

[19] But the solid foundation laid by God remains, and this is its inscription: *the Lord cares for His own*, and ‘let everyone who names the name of the Lord give up evil.’ **(Moffatt Translation)**

[19] But the truth of God cannot be changed. It says, “The Lord knows those who are His.” And, “Everyone who says he is a Christian must turn away from sin!” **(The New Life Testament)**

[19] But the solid foundation of God’s truth stands firm, and cannot be moved. It has these words written on it: “The Lord knows who those people are who truly belong

to Him,” and, “Everyone who claims to be a follower of Christ must stop living in sin!”
(The Last Days Bible)

Additional Information: “**Having this seal.**” The Greek word translated *seal* means the inscription which was engraved on the foundation stone, identifying the building and dedicating it to its purpose (Helps for Translators, p. 83).

“**The Lord knoweth them that are his.**” A quotation of Numbers 16:5 according to the Septuagint translation.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

VERSES 20-21

2 Timothy 2: [20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. [21] If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, (King James Version)

²⁰In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. **(New Living Translation)**

²⁰In a large house there are not only things made of gold and silver, but also things made of wood and clay. Some things are used for special purposes, and others are made for ordinary jobs. ²¹All who make themselves clean from evil will be used for special purposes. They will be made holy, useful to the Master, ready to do any good work. **(New Century Version)**

In a well-furnished kitchen there are not only crystal goblets and silver platters, but waste cans and compost buckets – some containers used to serve fine meals, others to take out the garbage. Become the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to his guests for their blessing. (verses 20-21) **(The Message)**

In any big household there are naturally not only gold and silver vessels but wooden and earthenware utensils as well. Some are used for the highest purposes and some for the lowest. If a man keeps himself clean from the contaminations of evil he will be a vessel used for honourable purposes, dedicated and serviceable for the use of the master of the household, all ready, in fact, for any good purpose. (verses 20-21) **(Phillips Translation)**

[20] In a large house there are things made out of gold and silver. But there are also things made out of wood and clay. Some have honorable purposes. Others do not. **[21]** Suppose people stay away from what is not honorable. Then the Master will be able to use them for honorable purposes. They will be made holy. They will be ready to do any good work. **(New International Reader’s Version)**

²⁰In a wealthy home there are dishes made of gold and silver as well as some made from wood and clay. The expensive dishes are used for guests, and the cheap ones are used in the kitchen or to put garbage in. ²¹If you stay away from sin you will be

like one of these dishes made of purest gold—the very best in the house—so that Christ himself can use you for his highest purposes. **(The Living Bible)**

[20] In a big house there are not only things made of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some are of more use than others. Some are used every day. **[21]** If a man lives a clean life, he will be like a dish made of gold. He will be respected and set apart for good use by the owner of the house. **(The New Life Testament)**

[20] In any large mansion there are not only containers made of gold and silver, but also of wood, and some of clay. Some are used for noble purposes, while others are for humble, ordinary use. **[21]** So if you thoroughly clean out whatever is impure and sinful in your life, you will be an honorable container, clean and serviceable, ready to be used by Christ Himself for His most noble assignments. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verses 20-21) – These verses provide an example from everyday life of the importance of holiness – being set apart for a noble (godly) task (Geneva Study Bible, p. 1921). Paul furthered his point about non-contamination by introducing a new but similar metaphor. The image changes from a building to a household (1 Tim. 3:15). Clearly the reference so far is to the faithful and unfaithful (false teachers) within the church. But Paul then shifted the metaphor slightly to show how one can be an instrument for noble purposes. What is set apart for special use can easily get contaminated and be rendered unusable. Paul was concerned that Timothy, his choicest disciple, keep himself in a usable condition for the Lord (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 755).

(Verse 21) – The Greek word for “**purge**” is *ekkathairo* and means “to thoroughly clean out,” or “to completely purge” (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1809). See *The Last Days Bible* translation which reflects this meaning from the Greek Lexicons.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2 VERSES 22-24

2 Timothy 2: [22] ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [23] But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. [24] And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (King James Version)

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. ²³ Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴ The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. **(New Living Translation)**

²² Run from temptations that capture young people. Always do the right thing. Be faithful, loving, and easy to get along with. Worship with people whose hearts are pure. ²³ Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble, ²⁴ and God's servants must not be troublemakers. They must be kind to everyone, and they must be good teachers and very patient. **(Contemporary English Version)**

²² Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. Have faith and love, and

enjoy the companionship of those who love the Lord and have pure hearts. ²³Again I say, don't get involved in foolish arguments, which only upset people and make them angry. ²⁴God's people must not be quarrelsome; they must be gentle, patient teachers of those who are wrong. **(The Living Bible)**

[22] Instead of giving in to your impulses like a young man, fasten your attention on holiness, faith, love and peace, in union with all those who call on the Lord with pure minds. **[23]** Avoid these futile and silly speculations, understanding that they only give rise to quarrels; **[24]** and a servant of the Lord is not to engage in quarrels, but has to be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and patient. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

So shun the lusts of youth and aim at integrity, faith, love and peace, in the company of those who invoke the Lord out of a pure heart. Shut your mind against foolish, popular controversy; be sure that only breeds strife. And the Lord's servant must not be a man of strife; he must be kind to everybody, a skilled teacher, a man who will not resent injuries; (verses 22-24) **(Moffatt Translation)**

[22] Run away from the evil things that young people long for. Try hard to do what is right. Have faith, love and peace. Do these things together with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **[23]** Don't have anything to do with arguing. It is dumb and foolish. You know it only leads to fights. **[24]** Those who serve the Lord must not fight. Instead, they must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach. They must not hold anything against anyone. **(New International Reader's Version)**

[22] For that reason, you must make it your practice to literally run from impure thoughts and desires that plague youth. Instead, you must earnestly pursue right living, faith, love, and peace of mind by enjoying the companionship of those who call out to the Lord from lives that are pure. **[23]** Always refuse to get involved in foolish and unprofitable arguments that only cause hard feelings and angry disputes. **[24]** A servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome; he must be gentle with everyone, skillful in teaching, and he must be patient when teaching those who are wrong in their understanding of the truth. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 22) – “Flee also youthful lusts.” Paul told Timothy (in 1 Timothy 4:12), *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.* Timothy was probably in his mid – 30s or younger, and in that day, such an influential position in spiritual leadership was not usually held by a man so young (NIV Study Bible, p. 1840). Timothy was to flee the evil desires of youth and pursue the virtues of righteousness, faith, love and peace. Running away is sometimes considered cowardly. But wise people realize that removing themselves physically from temptation often can be the most courageous action to take. Timothy, a young man, was warned to flee anything that produced evil thoughts. Remove yourself physically from any situation that stimulates your desire to sin. Knowing when to run is as important in spiritual battle as knowing when and how to fight (Life Application Bible, p. 2202).

(Verse 24) – “Patient” is the Greek word *anexikakon* meaning “ready to bear evil treatment without resentment” (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 755).

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**2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2
VERSES 25-26**

2 Timothy 2: [25] In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; [26] And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (King James Version)

[25] with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **[26]** and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. **(New American Standard)**

²⁵ They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. **(New Living Translation)**

²⁵ Be humble when you correct people who oppose you. Maybe God will lead them to turn to him and learn the truth. ²⁶ They have been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape. **(Contemporary English Version)**

He must be gentle in his admonitions to the opposition – perhaps God may let them change their mind and admit the Truth; they may come to their senses again and escape the snare of the devil, as they are brought back to life by God to do his will. (verses 25-26) **(Moffatt Translation)**

[25] Be gentle when you try to teach those who are against what you say. God may change their hearts so they will turn to the truth. **[26]** Then they will know they had been held in a trap by the devil to do what he wanted them to do. But now they are able to get out of it. **(The New Life Testament)**

[25] He has to be gentle when he corrects people who dispute what he says, never forgetting that God may give them a change of mind so that they recognize the truth and **[26]** come to their senses, once out of the trap where the devil caught them and kept them enslaved. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

²⁵ Be humble when you are trying to teach those who are mixed up concerning the truth. For if you talk meekly and courteously to them, they are more likely, with God's help, to turn away from their wrong ideas and believe what is true. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from Satan's trap of slavery to sin, which he uses to catch them whenever he likes, and then they can begin doing the will of God. **(The Living Bible)**

[25] Be humble in your attitude when you are trying to teach those who are in error and who oppose the truth, in the hope that God will lead them to change their minds and admit the truth. **[26]** Hopefully, they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to do whatever he wants them to do. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 25) – “Those that oppose themselves.” This could refer to unbelievers, captive to Satan (v. 26) but also could include believers deceived by the “foolish and ignorant” speculations of the false teachers (v. 23); and possibly the false teacher themselves (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1809). **“If God peradventure will give them repentance.”** When God, by grace, grants saving faith, it includes the granting of repentance from sin (Ibid., p.1809). **“Repentance”** is

the change of one's mind or purpose. In the New Testament it involves a change for the better, an amendment. This change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God.

"To the acknowledging of the truth." *"God's Word is alive and powerful, and pierces the mind and heart like a two-edged sword"* (Heb. 4:12). God pierces the heart when His truth is given, but even then He never forces His will on anyone. But we must speak out and give God's message to others so it may do its work (The Last Days Bible, p. 369).

(Verse 26) – "taken captive by him at his will." Or *by him, to do his* (that is, God's) *will* (RSV footnote). Or *escape from the devil's snare, caught now by God and made subject to his will* (NEB footnote).

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(2 Timothy Chapter 2)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to 2 Timothy Chapter 2.**

1. **Read 2 Timothy 2:1.** Timothy was to take strength from: a. health food. b. eating the right combination of food groups. c. the grace of God which is ours in Christ Jesus.

2. **Read 2 Timothy 2:2.** Apostolic teaching is to be passed on to succeeding generations without addition or alteration. True or False.
3. **Read 2 Timothy 2:3.** As a good soldier of Jesus Christ, you must demonstrate endurance in times of trial and hardship. True or False.
4. **Read 2 Timothy 2:4.** As Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in: a. worldly affairs. b. civilian affairs. c. civil pursuits. d. all the above.
5. **Read 2 Timothy 2:5.** An athlete does not receive the victor's crown unless he: a. goes to bed by 8 o'clock. b. watch's his diet. c. competes according to the rules.
6. **Read 2 Timothy 2:6-7.** A farmer knows he must work hard to enjoy a good harvest. What is Paul urging from Timothy? To labor intensely with view to the harvest or end of the race.
7. **Read 2 Timothy 2:8.** Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David, was Paul's: a. motto. b. gospel. c. western union password.
8. **Read 2 Timothy 2:9.** Paul suffered for Christ and the gospel by: a. fasting every Friday. b. giving above his tithes. c. being imprisoned and chained like a criminal.
9. **Read 2 Timothy 2:9.** Paul was imprisoned and chained but: a. Timothy was free. b. the church prayed. c. the Word of God is not chained or imprisoned!
10. **Read 2 Timothy 2:10.** Paul suffered so that: a. he could earn his salvation. b. the elect can be saved by hearing the gospel.
11. **Read 2 Timothy 2:12.** If we suffer for the sake of Christ, we will: a. feel better later. b. reign with Him. c. get over it soon.
12. **Read 2 Timothy 2:12.** If we deny and disown Christ, He will: a. say, "It really doesn't matter." b. get over it. c. also deny and disown us. (See *the article on "Personal Apostasy" at the end of this chapter*).
13. **Read 2 Timothy 2:13.** God remains faithful to His promises and warnings. True or False.
14. **Read 2 Timothy 2:14.** We are not to argue over unimportant things. True or False.
15. **Read 2 Timothy 2:15.** We are to study and know what God's Word says and means. True or False.
16. **Read 2 Timothy 2:17-18.** Hymenaeus and Philetus strayed from the truth, taught false doctrine, and destroyed the faith of some. True or False.

17. **Read 2 Timothy 2:19.** The Foundation of God stands. God knows those who are His. Everyone who says he is a Christian must: a. go to church on Sunday. b. pay tithes regularly. c. depart from iniquity, that is, turn away from sin!

18. **Read 2 Timothy 2:20-21.** If a man keeps himself clean from the contaminations of evil he will be a vessel used for honorable purposes. True or False. (*Consider the qualifications for a church leader: 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1*).

19. **Read 2 Timothy 2:22.** We are to flee from: a. the police. b. youthful lusts.

20. **Read 2 Timothy 2:22.** We are to follow things that make us want to do right. True or False.

21. **Read 2 Timothy 2:23-24.** The Lord's servant must: a. not quarrel. b. be kind to everyone. c. teach effectively. d. be patient with difficult people. e. all of the above.

22. **Read 2 Timothy 2:25.** We are to be humble when trying to teach those who are mixed up concerning the truth. True or False.

23. **Read 2 Timothy 2:25-26.** People can escape Satan's trap through: a. repentance and acknowledging the truth. b. making him a deal. c. saying, "Please don't get me!"

Additional Reading on the subject of:

Personal Apostasy

"If we deny Him, He also will deny us." 2 Timothy 2:12

Apostasy (Gk. *apostasia*) appears twice in the New Testament as a noun (Acts 21:21; 2 Thess. 2:3) and in Hebrews 3:12 as a verb (Gk. *aphistemi*, translated "depart"). The Greek term is defined as a falling away, defection, withdrawal, or turning from what one has formerly turned to.

To apostatize means to sever one's relationship with Christ or to withdraw from true faith in Him. Apostasy may involve two separate, though related, aspects: (a) theological apostasy, that is, a rejection of all or some of the original teachings of Christ and the apostles (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3) and (b) moral apostasy (See Titus 1:16). In the Vine's Greek Lexicon under the word "Error" it states, "*Plane*, a wandering, a forsaking of the right path (See James 5:20), whether in doctrine, or in morals. In Scripture,

doctrine and morals are never divided by any sharp line. "Error" in doctrine are not infrequently the effect of relaxed morality and vice versa" (p. 369).

The Bible issues urgent warnings concerning the possibility of apostasy, designed both to alert us to the deadly peril of abandoning faith in Christ and to motivate us to persevere in faith and obedience. The divine purpose of these warning passages must not be weakened by the view that states, "the warnings are real, but the possibility of actual apostasy is not." Rather, we should regard them with sincere alarm. A few of the many New Testament warning passages are: Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13; John 15:1-6; Acts 11:21-23; 14:21-22; 1 Cor. 15:1-2; Col. 1:21-23; 1 Tim. 4:1, 16; 6:10-12; 1 Tim. 4:2-5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:6-8, 12-14; 6:4-6; James 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 1:8-11; 1 John 2:23-25.

Example of actual apostasy can be found in Isaiah 1:2-4; Jeremiah 2:1-9; Acts 1:25; Galatians 5:4; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2 Peter 2:1, 15, 20-22; Jude 4, 11-13.

The steps which lead to apostasy are as follows: (a) The believer, through unbelief, fails to take the truths, exhortations, warnings, promises, and teachings of God's Word with utmost seriousness (Luke 8:13; John 5:44, 47; 8:46).

As the realities of the world become greater than the realities of God's heavenly kingdom, he gradually ceases to draw near to God through Christ (Heb. 4:16; 7:19, 25; 11:6).

Through the deceitfulness of sin, he becomes increasingly tolerant of sin in his own life (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:5; Heb. 3:13). He no longer loves righteousness and hates iniquity (Heb. 1:9).

Through hardness of heart ((Heb. 3:8, 13) and rejecting God's way (Heb. 3:10), he ignores the repeated voice of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19-22; Heb. 3:7-11).

The Holy Spirit is grieved (Eph. 4:30; Heb. 3:7-8) and quenched (1 Thess 5:19), and he eventually departs from his former faith (Col. 1:22-23; Heb. 3:14).

If apostasy continues on its course unchecked, an individual may eventually reach the point when no repentance is possible (Heb. 6:4-6; 12:17). That is, a person may continually harden his heart to the Holy Spirit's voice (Heb. 3:7-19), continues to sin willfully (Heb. 10:26), and refuses to repent towards God (Acts 20:21), he may reach a point of no return where repentance and salvation is no longer possible (Heb. 6:4-6). This point of no return cannot be defined in advance. Hence, the only safeguard against the peril of ultimate apostasy is found in the admonition: "Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 3:7-8, 15; 4:7).

It must be emphasized that while apostasy is a danger for all who drift from the faith (Heb. 2:1-3) and fall away from God (Heb. 6:6), it is not made complete without constant and willful sinning against the voice of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31). Because of the possibility of self-deception, Paul exhorts all those claiming salvation to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Cor. 13:5). Any

person who becomes sincerely concerned about his own spiritual condition and finds in his heart the desire to return to God in repentance, has sure evidence he has not committed unpardonable apostasy. The Scriptures clearly affirm that God is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9; Isaiah 1:18-19; 55:6-7) and declares that God will receive all who come to Him in faith (2 Cor. 2:5-11; Luke 15:11-24; Rom. 11:23; James 5:19-20; Rev. 3:21). (The Full Life Study Bible, pgs. 524-525).

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