

“WORD: Rightly Handling the Truth of God (2 Timothy 2:22-26)
For the week of February 12, 2017

Remembering the Spiritual Disciplines

Meditating on God's Word is a spiritual discipline. Christian meditation involves filling your mind (focused thinking) with God and His truth. Read Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, and James 1:25. From these verses, what are the benefits of meditating on God's Word? Do you currently meditate on God's Word?

Big Picture of the Passage

Paul's advice in this passage moves from the making of an honorable vessel to the maintenance and the ministry of an honorable vessel. The wisdom is clear: Fleeing is as important as pursuing. Our no is as important as our yes. God uses cleansed people who flee sin and pursue godliness.

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26 as a group.

Verse 22

1. Running away is sometimes considered cowardly. In this case, it is not. Why?

Quarrelsome -

Harshness when speaking –

2. Paul charges Timothy to “flee youthful passions.” Another way is to describe this as the headstrong passions of youth. Let's look at some of these passions. Define each element of youthful passions shown below and how each one can impair your walk with the Lord. Can these youthful passions be evident in adults of any age?

3. The running is not all in the negative. Timothy was also to chase after four virtues. Define each virtue below and describe how each virtue enhances your walk with the Lord.

Righteousness –

Sexual desires -

Faith –

Impatience -

Love –

Peace –

4. Even though these are identified as “youthful passions,” they are applicable to any age. Looking at your spiritual walk today, what one thing should you either flee from or pursue (or possibly both) to grow closer to the Lord? Discuss in your group.

- b) A spiritual leader is ready, willing, and able to pass on biblical truth. What are effective ways a leader can communicate God’s Word to others? Are there ineffective ways? If so, what are they?

- c) A spiritual leader is patient when wronged. Why is this a key leadership characteristic?

Verse 23

5. Paul says to have nothing to do with “foolish, ignorant controversies” which could also be stated as moronic and uniformed speculations (see 1 Timothy 6:4-5; Titus 3:9). This can be translated to not have pointless debate with a fellow believer as well as a nonbeliever. What constitutes a “pointless debate?” As a follow up, do you agree or disagree with the following: “Arguing is futile. People who genuinely want truth don’t dispute what you have to tell them. They ask questions. They seek clarification.”

Pray

Pray to be strong and flee all youthful desires no matter our age. Pray to be committed to righteousness, faith, love, and peace. Pray to be a godly example to others. Pray for our leaders at RiverLakes Community Church to exhibit gentleness, to teach others the Word, and to be patient with others.

Verses 24-26

6. In just a few phrases, Paul describes the ideal Christian leader.
- a) A spiritual leader is gentle.
Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 and describe examples of gentleness in a leader.