**Avoiding Empty and Constant Noise**
**2 Timothy 2:14-3:9**

**vs. 14**, **Remind**
Don't engage in a war over words.
It only leads to the ruin of those who are listening (specifically a person's faith and practice).

**vs. 15**, **Be diligent**
Present yourself to God as one approved.
A worker who isn't concerned about their social status.
The concern (energy) is spent rightly explaining the word of truth.
Truth -> to embody and teach the gospel.

**vs 16**, **Avoid** - stand outside
Irreverent - points to populist discourse
Empty speech - hollow / without substance

Matthew 18:6-7 But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.
**7** "What sorrow awaits the world, because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting.

Nevertheless (in spite of these realities)
- God's solid foundation stands firm.
- The Lord knows those who are his.
- Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.

**vs. 20**, It is important to not confuse or mistakenly link metaphors.
**vs. 21**, Paul explains what he means within the text.

Not the same as Romans 9:19-24 (potter and clay) or the imagery that he uses in 1 Corinthians 12:21-24 (parts of the body, greater honor / less honor).

Pauls' meaning
- It is imperative to separate yourself from anything that is dishonorable.
- Timothy is to be set apart (made holy) and he will be useful to the Master. God is active in transforming his people to participate with him in the restoration of all things.

**vs. 22**, **Flee**
From youthful passions (sexual immorality)
Be an example for others by your pursuit of righteousness, faith, love, and peace.

1 Timothy 6:9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction.

*Righteousness* - Jesus centric living, the ethics of the kingdom (Matthew 5-7). This is a description of one who is living a life in the Spirit.
*Faith* - both a summary statement of the gospel and the ongoing trust and dedication to the things of God.
*Love* - this is central to everything we do as the people of God.
1 Timothy 1:5 Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.
*Peace* - to be a person of peace (a peacemaker). Paul wants Timothy to be a pastor who is able to avoid the war of words, a person of reasonableness, a person who seeks reconciliation.

Once again all four of these characteristics describe a life of tov (goodness).
This is a life that is given to the service of others.

*Pure in heart* - living in wholeness in the likeness of Jesus.

**vs. 23**, **Reject** - the impulse to engage in foolish and ignorant arguments.
Just walk away.

Instead be an example of the Lord's servant.
- Do not quarrel.
- Be a person of gentleness to everyone. (Be socially aware, be a person of emotional intelligence).
- Able to teach.
- Be a person of patience. (Stubbornness takes time to dissolve).
- Gently instruct those who are in opposition to you. (Be a person of wisdom).
- Don't lose hope and belief that God is extraordinarily capable of changing hearts and lives.

**vs. 26**, *Reminder*: Opposition to the gospel is very much alive through the flesh, the world, and the enemy.

**Chapter Three**
Evidence of the last days is revealed through moral decay.

Timothy your future will be filled with the difficulties of humanity.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lovers of self | Lovers of money |
| Boastful | Proud |
| Demeaning | Disobedient to parents |
| Ungrateful | Unholy |
| Unloving (unfeeling) | |
| Irreconcilable (incapable of being brought into harmony) | |
| Slanderers | Without self-control |
| Brutal | Without love for what is good |
| Traitors | Reckless |
| Conceited | |
| Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God | |
| Holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. | |

**vs. 5**, **AVOID** these people!
Don't allow such people to infect the people of God (the church in Ephesus).

**vs. 6-8**, Two more
Those who worm their way into households.
- They have an ability to captivate others and use manipulation and forceful personality to accomplish their objectives.

*Context*
Gullible (immature / young widows) women
1 Timothy 5:11 But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when they are drawn away from Christ by desire, they want to marry

- They find themselves overwhelmed. They are confused.
- Sadly, they are always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (gospel / good news of Jesus). They are constantly feeding their curiosity, but never finding freedom through Christ.
- Allowing false promises to get in the way of genuine, Jesus centered community.

Those who resist the truth.
Take for example Jannes and Jambres - (Exodus 7:8-13).

There only tactic is that of deception.
Don't be deceived. These men are corrupt in mind.
They do not have a genuine faith. They are not approved (2:15).

**vs. 9**, Don't lose hope.
They will not get very far.
Their foolishness will be clear to all.

**Question**: Are you able to gently and clearly communicate the truth of Jesus?
In what ways do you intentionally set yourself apart as holy? How are you experiencing transformation through the Holy Spirit as you participate in the restoration of all things?

How are you an example to others by your pursuit of righteousness, faith, love, and peace? Which of these may need your attention?

How are you experiencing tov? Can you be described as a person who is pure in heart (why or why not)?

How easy is it for you to simply walk away from ignorant arguments?

What is the difference between arguing and gently instructing?

How good are you at avoiding moral decay?

How are you actively engaged in not being one of these people?