



**Be Faithful in Service  
2 Timothy 2:14-26**

**Speech to Avoid**

**Hurtful** – Paul says. “Not to fight about words. This is useless and leads to the ruin of those who listen” (v.14). When we use words to fight, our words became weapons that hurt.

**Unhealthy/Poisonous** – In verse sixteen Paul commands, “Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, and their teaching will spread like gangrene.” Our speech should encourage righteousness and build people up. We must avoid the opposite which are words that encourage godlessness and tear down people.

**Ignorant** – Paul warns in verse 23, “But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, because you know that they breed quarrels.” Sometimes we speak without knowledge. Sometimes people speak confidently and loudly without knowledge. Such speech only produces arguments.

**Illustrations of Faithful Service to Combat Useless Speech**

**Laborer (Handle the Truth Well)** – Our speech should be correct teaching of the truth rather than empty words. Paul tells Timothy be diligent to be hard worker who is careful and accurate in his use of the Word of God. If Timothy is such a teacher, he will not be ashamed. These admonitions are for us too.

**Vessel (Have godly character and be around godly people)** – In addition to teaching the truth, Paul teaches us to avoid false teachers and their teachings. Paul gives the example of Hymenaeus and Philetus who spread false teaching that the resurrection had already taken place. Because of their teaching, people’s faith was being ruined. Paul’s metaphor is about vessels in a house that are either honorable or dishonorable. Timothy was to remain honorable by having nothing to do with the dishonorable vessels (false teachers). If he did, he would be a special vessel set apart, useful to the Master and prepared for every good work. Additionally, he was to remain honorable by pursuing righteousness and fleeing youthful passions and being around people who called on the Lord from a pure heart. “Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness” (v.19)

**Servant (our purpose is to serve others)** – The third illustration is of a servant who doesn’t quarrel, but is gentle to everyone, able to teach and patient.

**Purpose of Truth and Service**

It’s vital that our truth is balanced with gentleness. The purpose of studying the word of God, working hard, and living right isn’t to win arguments, build a following, build a career, or any other selfish reason. The reason is to help others repent, come to a knowledge of the truth and escape the traps of the devil.