

**Endure**  
*A Study of 2 Timothy*  
Week 04: Duties of a Believer (Part 2)

### Scripture

2 Timothy 2:14-26

### Review (Where We Are)

*Here's where we are in history...*

- Second letter to the pastor, Timothy (Timothy ministering in Ephesus 4 years)
- Final writing from a Roman prison and before his death (martyred in AD67)  
**2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV)** “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
- The Roman Emperor, Nero, blamed Christians for the great fire in Rome (burned half of Rome in AD64) and they came under great persecution
- Purpose was to encourage Timothy to **endure** trials and hardships

### Advice So Far...

- Fan the flame of your spiritual gifts given to you by God  
**2 Timothy 1:6 (ESV)** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- Guard the truth  
**2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV)** Follow the pattern of the words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
- Endure hardship (good soldier, athlete, farmer)  
**2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace [*favor; kindness*] that is in Christ Jesus...  
“Paul is calling for Timothy to overcome his apparent drift toward weakness and renew his commitment to his ministry.” - John MacArthur

### Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

Paul now addressed an issue which seems to be left over from 4 years ago when he wrote to Timothy the first time - people arguing about things that could not be known.

In church, people enjoy arguing especially about things that can't be known for sure.

## Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul shifts his focus from talking to Timothy to those Timothy led in Ephesus.

**2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)** Remind them of these things, and charge them...

## Advice for the Congregations...

### Rightly handle the Word of Truth

- **Don't quarrel over words** (familiar reminder found in 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 4:7; 6:4)  
**2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)** Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.  
**2 Timothy 2:16 (ESV)** But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness...  
**2 Timothy 2:23 (ESV)** Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

*Paul addresses these types of arguments in Romans 14 -*

**Romans 14:1 (ESV)** As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. **2** One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. **3** Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains...

**Romans 14:5 (ESV)** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

- **Know and uphold what HAS been revealed in the Scriptures**  
**2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

From Erik Thoennes in the ESV Study Bible...

- ✓ *Absolutes* core beliefs of the Christian faith
- ✓ *Convictions* while not core beliefs, may have impact on the health of the church
- ✓ *Opinions* less-clear issues that generally are not worth dividing over
- ✓ *Questions* unsettled issues

### Remain useful in the Lord's work

**2 Timothy 2:20 (ESV)** Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. **21** Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

Two types of vessels: 1) vessels for dishonorable use, 2) vessels for honorable use

The way to tell the difference between the two vessels is to look at the character of those who are honorable vessels.

**2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **23** Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. **24** And the Lord's must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

### **Application (What They Need to Do)**

*Paul provides a list of the actions of those who are honorable vessels...*

#### **2 Timothy 2:22-26**

- Flee youthful passions
- Pursue faith, love, and peace
- Avoid foolish controversy and useless arguments
- Characterized by kindness
- Able to teach
- Patience in difficulty (circumstances or people)
- Gently corrects others

**2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV)** ...correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.