

## Verses: 2 Timothy 2:24-26 NKJV

*<sup>24</sup>And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup>in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, <sup>26</sup>and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

In this passage and the preceding verses, Paul is giving Timothy valuable counsel about how to handle people who have gone into error concerning the truth of the gospel. There were those in the church, whom he specifically pointed out to him, who were teaching a skew doctrine. Their teachings had spread like cancer and overthrown the faith of some.

Paul calls them vessels of dishonour. But he also brings hope of restoration for such people who have been taken captive by the devil to do his will. It is possible for them to cleanse themselves of this iniquity and be restored to be vessels of honour.

We, God's servants, have a part to play. We can aid in their restoration, or ignore them and allow the cancer to spread further and possibly destroy parts of the church.

To be of use, we must firstly have a clear, sound understanding of the gospel ourselves (be diligent to study the word so we can accurately handle and teach the word of truth). We must flee temptations and actively pursue Jesus and His way of life. And we must correct those who are in error in the right way – humbly, with courtesy, gentleness and patience, in the hope that they will come to their senses and repent, escaping the snare of the enemy.

Our motivation should be love and their restoration, not to be right and win an argument. May God help us and give us discernment, wisdom, skill and patience in these matters.

### Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you that you have spread your love abroad in our hearts by your Holy Spirit. May we experience and know your deep love for your church and may this love cause us to pursue righteousness and be diligent with your word. Help us to be your true servants who correct our opponents in love and bring unity and restoration in your church, in Jesus' name. Amen.