

## USEFUL UTENSILS

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### Key verses: **2 Timothy 2:20-26**

#### Introduction

#### **2 Timothy 2:20-26 ESV**

20. *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.*
22. *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 servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,*
25. *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.*

#### **Useful Utensils: Useful to the Master of the House Ready for Every Good Work**

- At the heart of Paul's message to Timothy (1 & 2 Timothy) is the charge to remain true to the gospel, no matter what.
- In the previous verses Paul has been speaking of breaking free from false teaching and false teachers.
- In this section Paul puts his point in an illustration.
  - A Great House.
  - Various Utensils (Vessels).
  - Some for honourable use and others for dishonourable use.
- Interpretation:
  - THE GREAT HOUSE: Christianity, Christendom. Not a local Church – It is not a Mixed Multitude.
  - THE UTENSILS (VESSELS): Teachers, Preachers & Influencers.
  - HONOURABLE & DISHONOURABLE UTENSILS (VESSELS): God uses both honourable and dishonourable utensils. False utensils are used for dishonour – it tests the church. Those who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ are utensils of honour.

- Application of Illustration:

Verse 21: *Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonourable, he will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.*

- The Christian Preacher, Teacher, Leader, and Influencer must cleanse him/herself from those who do not proclaim the Gospel.
- Does not mean to be rude, unpleasant, quarrelsome, or heresy-hunting.
- Be quite clear on what the Gospel Message is and is not.
- A fake gospel is a kind of pollution propagated by vessels of dishonour.
- One cannot be set apart by God if there is toleration of a seriously perverted "gospel."
- The person that God will use and bless, and reward must have a clear and sound Gospel.
- A message cannot be proclaimed with positive clarity unless its opposite is denied.

- **The character Paul wants Timothy to display:**

22. *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 servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,*
25. *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.*

- 1. Something to Escape From.**

Verse 22a *So flee youthful passions...*

- Flee evil desires of youth. Does not have sexual lust in mind.
  - Self-assertiveness.
  - Self-Indulgence.
  - Self-Centredness.
  - Obstinacy.
  - Arrogance.
  - Impatience.
- Young people lack life experience.

- 2. Something to Follow.**

Verse 22b *...pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

- Righteousness. (All-round integrity of character)
- Faithfulness. (Loyalty to those who have claims upon us)
- Love. (Total unselfishness and benevolence to everyone everywhere)
- Peace. (A commitment to avoid all unnecessary conflict with others)
- Those who call upon the Lord with a pure heart. Jesus is the only hope of Salvation.
- Renewed by the Holy Spirit daily.

### **3. Something to Avoid.**

*Verse 23 ...Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.*

- Sometimes controversy and confrontation are necessary.
- We cannot be so compromising that we fail to stand firm in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus.
- Don't be temperamentally aggressive. Find the balance!
- Avoid speculations.
- God reveals Himself.
- The Gospel is revealed and not investigated.

### **4. Skill to be Developed.**

*Verses 24-26 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*

- a. Skill of Avoiding Quarrels.
- b. Skill of Showing Kindness.
- c. Skill in Teaching that Convinces the Other Person.
- d. Be Patient when Wronged.
- e. Combine Meekness with Firm Instruction of the Misguided.