

The Lord's Servant

2 Timothy 2:20–26

1

Brethren Need To Be Reminded

2 Timothy 2:14

Of things they have learned in the past.

- It is so easy to forget.
(cf. 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Peter 1:12, 13; 3:1, 2).

▶ The “*purging*” of our text is necessary in order for one to be “*useful*” to our master, our Lord.

▶ The word meet (*euchrēstos*) means “*useful, serviceable (eu, well, chraomai, to use)*” (Vine).

–*The Lord's Servant Must Be useful!*

2

The Lord's Servant Must ...

1. Cleanse oneself from “*these*” – 2 Timothy 2:21

- Vessels of dishonor – 2 Timothy 2:20
- Teachers of false doctrine like Hymenaeus and Philetus– cf. 2 Timothy 2:16–18

2. Flee youthful lusts – 2 Timothy 2:22

- The lust of the flesh, such as fornication – 1 Corinthians 6:18
- The lust of the eyes, such as materialism – cf. 1 Timothy 6:9–11

– The Lord's Servant must AVOID both wicked associations and wicked conduct.

3

3

The Lord's Servant Must Avoid ...

1. Foolish and ignorant questionings – 2 Timothy 2:23 (cf. 1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 6:4, 20; 2 Timothy 1:13).

- That generate strife – 2 Timothy 2:23; cf. 1 Timothy 1:4; 6:4

◦ That bring ruin to the hearers – 2 Timothy 2:14; cf. Titus 3:9

◦ That increase to more ungodliness – 2 Timothy 2:16

2. Quarreling – 2 Timothy 2:24

- That is, strive or fight over words – cf. 2 Timothy 2:23
- “engage in a war of words, to quarrel, wrangle, dispute” (Thayer)

– The Lord's Servant must AVOID arguments that are little more than “word battles.”

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4

The Lord's Servant Must ...

1. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace – 2 Timothy 2:22

- Qualities without which no one will see the Lord – Hebrews 12:14
- Qualities necessary for the “*man of God*” – cf. 1 Timothy 6:11

2. Pursue those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart – 2 Timothy 2:22

- Together with those who sincerely love God
- i.e. not alone, nor in the company of those “vessels of dishonor”

– The Lord's Servant must SEEK both holy conduct and holy associations.

5

5

The Lord's Servant Must ...

1. Be gentle to all – 2 Timothy 2:24

- “affable, that is, mild or kind” (Strong)
- “not only to troubled minds, and wounded consciences, by supplying them with the precious promises and truths of the Gospel; and to backsliders, by restoring them in a spirit of meekness; but even to those who contradict the truth, and themselves, by mild and kind instructions.” – Gill

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6

The Lord's Servant Must ...

2. Be able to teach – 2 Timothy 2:24

- “apt and skillful in teaching” (Thayer)
- Thus able to both exhort and convict those who contradict – cf. **Titus 1:9**

3. Be gentle (patient) – 2 Timothy 2:24

- “patient of ills and wrongs, forbearing” (Thayer)
- “The Greek word here used does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament. It means, patient under evils and injuries.” (Barnes)
- A Christ-like quality much needed in “word battles” – cf. **Ephesians 4:31–32; Colossians 3:13**

7

The Lord's Servant Must ...

4. Correct in meekness – 2 Timothy 2:25–26

(cf. Matthew 11:29). *“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth”* (Numbers 12:3).

- That is, with “gentleness, mildness, meekness” (Thayer)
- Even against those who:
 - 1) Who oppose the truth. Jude 23
 - 2) Who are ensnared by the devil.
- For such qualities are weapons “*mighty before God*” – cf. 2 Corinthians 10:1–5
 - 1) Not carnal, such as wrath, anger, and strife
 - 2) But mighty for casting down arguments, bringing thoughts into captivity to Christ.

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