



WEEK 18 | BRYAN TOWNSEND

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

2 Timothy 2:20-26 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also those of wood and clay; some for honorable use and some for dishonorable. ²¹ So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. ²² Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, because you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, ²⁵ instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. ²⁶ Then they may come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

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GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. Paul describes believers as vessels that can be useful or unuseful to the Master. What are some "dishonorable" influences, habits, or sins that can hinder our usefulness to God? What does practical purification look like in the life of a Christian today?
3. Verse 22 commands us to both flee and pursue. Why is it not enough merely to avoid sin? Which of the qualities Paul mentions—righteousness, faith, love, or peace—do you most need to pursue in this season of life?
4. Paul emphasizes pursuing godliness "*along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*" What does this teach us about the role of Christian community in spiritual growth? How has fellowship with other believers helped you fight sin or grow in Christ?
5. Paul warns against foolish and ignorant controversies because they produce quarrels. What kinds of arguments or debates tend to distract Christians from the mission of the gospel today? How can we discern the difference between defending important truth and engaging in unproductive disputes?
6. The Lord's servant is called to be gentle, patient, and able to teach. Why is the manner in which we communicate truth just as important as the truth itself? How can we demonstrate Christlike gentleness when discussing difficult theological, moral, or political issues?
7. Paul says that God may grant repentance to those who oppose the truth and are trapped by the devil. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between God's sovereignty and human responsibility in salvation? How should this truth shape the way we pray for and engage with unbelievers or Christians who have wandered from the faith?