

*20Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. 2 Tim 2:20-26*

Paul here is giving Timothy a picture of the Kingdom of God, the kingdom is like a large house. It is a house that has many vessels, containers. Some of these are gold and silver, *for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master*, and some are for the more common tasks, *vessels of wood and of earthenware*. We make this type of differentiation in our homes, if we have company coming we will bring out the best china. Here Paul is talking about believers cleansing themselves from behavior that is dishonorable to the kingdom. *21Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.* God's Spirit in us is preparing us for good works, works in line with the will of God. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul wrote, *we are His (God's) workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Eph 2:10* Every believer is to be a *sanctified vessel, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work*. God is preparing us for good works, the Spirit living in us is empowering us to live godly lives, *it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Phil 2:13* Again Paul wrote, *if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Gal 5:18* Because we are not under the Law (the mandate to be righteous, in right relationship with God by keeping all of the Law's requirements) but under grace, we live in the provision of the Spirit.

Paul tells Timothy *if anyone cleanses himself from these things*. And Paul was going to go on in this chapter to describe godly behavior for the believer (Timothy specifically) but he wasn't beginning here. Earlier in chapter this chapter, we looked at this last week, Paul instructed Timothy to teach behavior befitting the believer. Teach them he wrote, *not to wrangle (gk logomacheó, from logo-the word + machesthai to fight.) about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers*. Believers are not to fight (*be quarrelsome*) over concepts that are not true and or not essential to the truth. He writes a similar concept in 2 Timothy 2, *refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome. 2 Tim 2:23-24.*

*14Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. 15Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

Paul wanted Timothy to be *accurate in his handling of the word, of truth*, true to the essence of God's purpose and character. Jesus prayed for His disciples, the Father would, *Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth. The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations (your law) will stand forever. Ps 119:160 NLT* He wanted the teaching of the Word to be pure, without vain speculation, *fruitless discussion*. The challenge of teaching the Word is for the teacher to allow the Word of God to speak and for the vessel to just be a

conduit of the truth.

*the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion 1 Tim 1:5,6*

*they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Acts 2:4*

*13But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:13-17*

All of this passage is wrapped up in Paul instructing Timothy to have a character befitting a servant of God.

*22Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. 2 Tim 2:20-26*

*1. Flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace*

*2. Refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels*

*3. Don't be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged*

*4. With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.*

*5. Hoping they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

Paul wants Timothy to, 1. Watch his own behavior. 2. Don't enter into quarrels with those who are want to wrangel and not be instructed in the truth. 3. Teach kindly, be *patient when wronged* 4. Correct gently those who are opposing what you teach. 5. Hoping for the deliverance of the captive, in the snare of the devil.