

*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. 16But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. 19Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." 2 Tim 2:14-19*

To Timothy, a church leader responsible for teaching the Word, Paul begins this section by instructing Timothy to not, *wrangle about words* (gk *logomacheó*, from *logo*-the word + *machesthai* to fight. While believer is to, *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth*. Eph 4:6, we are not to wrangle, fight, argue *with the aim of persuading others* to come to Christ. The Gospel is very logical and it is possible, with the power of our intellect to coerce people to accept Christ. This isn't the way true believers are made. Christian is not a matter of mental assent, a decision that we can be coerced into. We very rarely accomplish good results by arguing with a person. And for a true believer faith is much more than a mental decision. Coming to Christ is a work of the heart, a work of God's Spirit communing with our spirits, convicting us of sin and the utter righteousness of God. And we are not to argue as a way to prove how intelligent we are and end up *subverting(to overturn or overthrow from the foundation) of the hearers, confusing people*.

*charging them before the Lord that they **strive not about words** to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. KJV solemnly charge them in the presence of God **not to wrangle about words**, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. NAS 2 Tim 2:14*

In our exuberance for Christ we can be tempted to fight about words, especially with someone we know to be caught up in false doctrine and belief. This carnal arguing about the faith Paul states is *useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers*. This behavior is incapable of producing the peaceable fruit of Righteousness (Heb 12:11) Instead this type of behavior breeds feelings of anger, resentment, and confusion. This is a harsh warning because if a person's feelings are hurt, or if they become confused over what is true, it can lead to their ruin (*leads to the ruin of the hearers*).

We as Christians must grow to be able to *speak the truth in love* (Eph 4:15). That is what Paul was expecting of Timothy, *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth*. 2 Tim 2:15 The KJV reads, *Study to shew thyself approved . . . rightly dividing the word of truth*. We might dismiss this admonition of Paul's since we are not called, like Timothy to lead a church. Peter believes all believers must be able to defend the hope that is in us, *always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame*. 1 Peter 3:15, 16 Peter knew that the ministers of the Gospel were to *devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word*. Acts 6:4 We need to provide a defense of Gospel but we need to do this without needless arguing.

To the Ephesians Paul wrote, *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth* Ephesians 6:14 Paul tells Timothy to *accurately handle the word of truth*. He says study, study

*to show thyself approved.* So here are two things we must take note of, one we must study the Word but we must also handle it accurately. The believer must not be a *man who goes astray from the truth*. There is a tendency of knowledge to puff up *But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. NLT Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. KJV I Cor 8:1*

When Paul was writing this the only Word they had was the OT. To study the OT it is necessary to read and become familiar with It. As believers we must discipline ourselves to study the Bible, both the Old and New Testament. Paul tells Timothy to *accurately handle the word of truth*. Until the 1500's it was difficult for a lay believer or a non Roman clergy to lay their hands on either the Old or New Testament. That is not the case today. In the days of the Reformation believers were willing to risk their lives to translate the Bible into the language of the People. It was illegal to have a Bible. With the advent of the printing press Christians had the opportunity to have not only the OT but the NT writings in their own language. They were able to handle the word of truth. It became possible to *Study to show thyself approved* in a way that had never been possible before. Today every believer has the great opportunity of studying the written word of God.

The only true God made Himself know in the Bible. Apart from the Bible He could also be known through general revelation, *being understood through what has been made*. In the book of Romans Paul stated that the world we live in declares the attributes of God.

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. Rom 1:20*

How much greater is the revelation of God we have in Jesus Christ and the written Word that tells the story of God's redemptive plan. Since we have this revelation from God we must do our bests not to blend it with the base, heathenish, wicked, and profane, things of this world. Paul wrote, *avoid worldly and empty chatter*.

*16But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.*

The worldly concepts of God and religion are heathenish, wicked, and profane, *worldly and empty chatter*. These concepts masquerade as spiritual truth but as Paul writes, *it will lead to further ungodliness*. We must *study to show ourselves approved, accurately handling the word of truth* because these deception, false doctrines, lead men away from the truth. These concepts will *spread like gangrene*. Jesus stated there would be false Christs, *For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matt 24:24* False messiahs are about spreading doctrines of demons, *the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. 1 Tim 4:1* Like gangrene these false doctrines will choke out spiritual life. They replace the new life with dead of tissue, false beliefs, and unless it is combatted the spiritual life would be eradicated. Paul lists two individuals, *Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth*.

They were *saying that the resurrection has already taken place* and this was upsetting some believers. We don't know what their teaching was for in detail but Paul states they were teaching the resurrection had already happened at that time. We do know that the resurrection of the dead is a vital part of the Christian faith, *the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thess 4:6*. When we are born again we receive the promise of eternal life and with it the promise of

resurrection. The proof of this resurrection is in the fact that Christ died for our sin and was raised for our justification, *He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification. Rom 4:25* The Apostles proclaimed *that Christ was raised from the dead*. And we too would live eternally with Him.

As Christians we don't grieve as those without hope of the resurrection, life after death. Paul wrote the Thessalonians, *Brothers, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who are without hope. 1 Thess 4:13* The hope of resurrection and belief that Christ has gone to prepare a place for us is at the heart of our Christian faith. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.*

*12Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 1 Cor 15:12-19*

Our faith is sure, when we repent and believe in Christ's provision for sin we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, *having also believed, you were sealed in Him (in Christ) with the Holy Spirit of promise.*

*13In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. Eph 1:13,14*

Paul finishes this passage with the assurance the foundation of our faith in Christ is sure, sealed with *the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance.*

*19Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." 2 Tim 2:19*

And he declares that the life of the believer is a life of holiness and dedication to the Lord. We are to *show forth the praises of him*, to declare with our lives the character of God, we are to *abstain from wickedness*, we are called to live godly lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. Lives that proclaim we are called out of baseness, the carnality of our flesh and into the light filled life of the Kingdom of God.

*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 1 Peter 2:9*

This new life is possible through the working Spirit's working in our lives, *the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His He accomplishes His work by sealing us in Him with His precious Holy Spirit.*

*In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed (stamped with a seal attesting to God's ownership) in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, Eph 1:13*