



Week 6; Study 5 2 Timothy 2:14-26

Main Idea: Teach, defend and live the gospel

Getting Started

“What an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable is people who acknowledge Jesus with their lips but deny him by their lifestyle...”

- What do you think about this statement?

Context Question:

1. Who can remember why Paul told Timothy to stay in Ephesus? (See 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 18-20)

So far in 2 Timothy we have seen Paul affirm the genuine nature of Timothy’s faith. He has then appealed to Timothy to stand firm in the gospel by the grace of God, to teach it clearly and entrust it to others who will also be qualified to teach it. Now Paul turns his attention to the false teachers.

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26

2. What is Timothy to do? (v. 14-15)
3. What is he to avoid? (v. 16-18)
 - a. Why does he have to avoid this?
4. Given the serious effect of the false teaching, what does Paul tell him that would give him confidence? (v. 19)
5. Why do the two quotes in verse 19 stand out? (Quoting Numbers 16:1-7)

- a. If God sovereignly knows who are His, why does it matter how they live?
6. What do you think Paul means in verses 20-21?
 - a. Can you expect God to use you if you are indifferent to growing in godliness?
7. What is the dark reality behind false teaching?
8. How would you summarise Paul's advice to Timothy in 22-26?

Thinking about it

9. What is the relationship between knowing the gospel and living the gospel here?
10. Too great an emphasis on the disciplines of godly living can lead to guilt laden struggle and uncertainty about whether you are good enough to be saved because we fall short of the mark so often! But too great an emphasis on God's grace can lead to an unhealthy indifference towards living a godly life! Today's passage has helpfully tied the two together for us as equally important, though for different reasons. Which side do you find yourself tending towards and why?
11. Have you ever considered that unless you are committed to growing in godliness and holiness you won't be of any usefulness to God?
 - a. God is sovereign and can do what He wants, when He wants, how He wants, yet we read today that He works uniquely through those committed to godliness and holiness – sobering thought?
 - b. Does this mean unless we've increasingly 'perfect' we can't expect God to use us?
 - c. What can you do to make sure you are growing in both your understanding of the gospel and in a life that examples the gospel?

How can you pray about this?

Pray also for your Mission Partner