

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

September 2014

## PAUL'S LAST WORDS: BE USEFUL TO THE MASTER!!

### INTRODUCTION

What is the most useful item in your house? Why?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26

*Note: Timothy was some thirty years younger than Paul when this letter was written. He therefore was relatively youthful and was still tempted by many sinful lusts that are characteristic of young people. These lusts involve much more than sinful sexual desire. They also include pride, craving for wealth and power, inordinate ambition, jealousy, envy, an argumentative and self-assertive spirit, and many other sinful lusts.*<sup>1</sup>

1. How does this metaphor of “gold and silver” or “wood and clay” relate to use and purpose?
2. What are some specific examples of both ‘noble’ and ‘ignoble’ purposes? vv. 20-21
3. How can we ‘cleanse ourselves’ from ignoble purposes? Why is this so hard?
4. How can you separate yourself from worldly things ( 2 Cor 6:14- 7:1) and still be “winsome” enough to reach the lost? 1 Cor 15:33

*Note: The message is, if we want to be an instrument for noble purpose in God’s household, we must keep ourselves from the polluting influences that can infect the church through false teaching and from the influences of those spurious members who know nothing of God’s salvation in Christ. Instead, we will desire to be ‘made holy’, to love God’s word and prayer, and to be useful in the Master’s service.*<sup>2</sup>

5. What are we told to shun from and aim toward? What might be some examples of each? vs.22
6. Why should we do these things “with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”? vs 22
7. Why does Paul emphasize “avoiding stupid and foolish arguments”? vs 23
8. Which of the criteria for the Lord’s servant do you find most challenging? Vs 24 Why?
9. How can verses 25-26 be an encouragement to us?
10. What does all of this have to do with becoming ‘useful to the Master’?

### APPLICATION

Of the four goals mentioned in verse 22, which one do you need to work on this week? How will you demonstrate it in word and in deed?

*In a well-furnished kitchen there are not only crystal goblets and silver platters, but waste cans and compost buckets—some containers used to serve fine meals, others to take out the garbage. Become the kind of container God can use to present any and every kind of gift to his guests for their blessing. Run away from infantile indulgence. Run after mature righteousness—faith, love, peace—joining those who are in honest and serious prayer before God. Refuse to get involved in inane discussions; they always end up in fights. God's servant must not be argumentative, but a gentle listener and a teacher who keeps cool, working firmly but patiently with those who refuse to obey. You never know how or when God might sober them up with a change of heart and a turning to the truth, enabling them to escape the Devil's trap, where they are caught and held captive, forced to run his errands.*

*2 Timothy 2:20-26, The Message*

<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1995). *2 Timothy* (p. 92). Chicago: Moody Press.

<sup>2</sup> Williams, P. (2007). *Opening up 2 Timothy* (pp. 60–61). Leominster: Day One Publications.