II Timothy 2:14-26

Introduction…

- The outline of II Timothy…
  - Chapter 1-2 - The characteristics of the faithful servant
  - The first characteristic - Amazing Grace…
  - The second characteristic – Not Ashamed…
  - The third characteristic – Be Strong in the Grace of our Lord…
    - Like a good soldier – we need to be careful not to get caught up in this world…
    - Like a good athlete – we need to make sure we obey the rules / eyes on Jesus…
    - Like a good farmer – work hard so that there will be a harvest – but God brings the increase!
  - Remembering the resurrection – the POWER of the Gospel…
    - If we suffer with Christ – we will rule with Christ / if we deny Him – He will deny us…
    - But even if we are unfaithful – God is always faithful because He cannot deny Himself!

A Faithful servant **REMEMBERS…** (7 points)

- **1st – REMINDED not to fight… vs. 14**
  - REMIND (*present / imperative*) them of these things…
    - Paul is going to give us seven things that we are to DAILY remind each other about…
    - They all have to do with the Word of God – our DAILY WALK with God!
  - 1st – CHARGE before the Lord – NOT to STRIVE about words…
    - CHARGE – *diamartyromai* - word that means to SHOW through our EXAMPLE…
    - We are to SHOW others – NOT to STRIVE about words that have NO USE…
    - STRIVE – only here NT – to FIGHT over WORDS that have no PROFIT…
    - Because when we FIGHT over WORDS it will RUIN those who hear…
    - RUIN – *katastrophē* – the results of our arguments are catastrophic!
    - There is no benefit to fighting over words / ARGUING about ideas…
    - In fact those who try and ARGUE words / ideas often do catastrophic damage…
    - Because the ARGUING can RUIN the FAITH of those who are listening…
    - There are a couple of possibilities about what Paul is talking about here!
  - 2nd - Paul could be talking about ARGUING over non-essential doctrines…
    - We DO stand up for the KEY doctrines of the Bible – those we fight for!
    - The doctrine of the TRINITY – the DEITY of Jesus – salvation through Christ alone!
    - However there are a LOT of non-essential doctrines – do NOT keep us out of heaven…
    - Will the rapture be PRE / MID / or POST tribulation – use of the GIFTS of the Spirit!
    - When we ARGUE with believers about non-essential doctrines in the Word…
    - We are acting in pride – trying to prove our ideas are right / others wrong…
    - But we do not know who might be listening – perhaps a young believer…
    - And our arguing can confuse them – seeing Christians FIGHT…
    - And it can cause these new believers to doubt their FAITH / doubt Jesus!
  - 3rd - Paul also might be talking about ARGUING in general…
    - Dads - when we come home and ARGUE with our wives / the kids are watching…
    - Our when older brothers ARGUE with each other / their younger siblings listen…
    - And our ARGUMENT / our hurtful words – can do catastrophic damage…
    - Rather than be an example for Jesus – we instead can destroy the FAITH of others!
    - **James 1:20** – "The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

- **2nd – REMINDED TO STUDY… VS. 15**
  - 1st – REMINDED to be DILIGENT (*imperative*)…
    - DILIGENT – to put in effort – to make a priority…
    - What are we to put EFFORT into – make a PRIORITY – STUDY the Word!
    - We need to REMIND each other how important it is to study the Word of God…
    - Not that God needs us to have a degree – a diploma from a seminary...
    - But it is certainly to our advantage to be students of the Word!
  - 2nd - So we can present ourselves APPROVED by God…
    - APPROVED - *dokimos* – to test to see if something in genuine…
      - In Bible times there was no paper currency – all the money was precious metals…
      - As a result - people would shave / steal the edges of a gold / silver coins…
      - But there were HONEST men who would make sure their coins were full weight…
      - They were called *dokimos* – they PROVED who they were by their ACTIONS!
    - How to be APPROVED by God…
      - If we want to get a good grade in school – we have to study…
      - Our teacher is not going to APPROVE if we are always goofing off!
      - In the same way we show we are SERIOUS about our faith by studying the Word!
  - 3rd – So we can be a worker who does NOT need to be ASHAMED…
    - We labor in the word – so we are not embarrassed…
    - Because we never know when you might have an opportunity to share the Gospel…
    - If we are unsure of ourselves in the Word of God - our hope of Jesus...
    - We are not going to be very effective – we are going to be embarrassed when asked...
    - So get to know our Bible - know how to find important verses - be prepared!
    - **I Peter 3:15** - "If you are asked about your hope, always be ready to explain it."
  - 4th – So we can RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word of TRUTH…
    - RIGHTLY DIVIDE – only here NT – to cut straight with a sharp sword…
      - **Hebrews 4:12** – "The word of God is living and powerful, and SHARPER than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
      - The Bible is a VERY dangerous weapon – it is so powerful it can separate the inseparable…
      - It can divide the soul / spirit – joints / marrow – thought / intents of the heart…
      - If we are NOT careful how we use it - we can do a LOT of damage with it!
      - When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane – Peter tried to defend him…
      - He took his sword and cut off the ear Malchus – the servant of the High Priest…
      - When we take the Word of God – and try to use it against others – we cut off ears!
      - Too often I have seen people use the Bible to attack others…
      - Using the Word of God to condemn – beat up others with their sinfulness…
      - In doing so people learn to NOT listen to the Bible – they get their ears cut off!
      - The good news – Jesus is in the business of reattaching ears!
    - When we RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word of Truth – we cut STRAIGHT…
      - **Proverbs 3:5-6** – "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall make STRAIGHT your paths."
      - People have a lot of funny ideas about the Bible – but they are just their OPINIONS…
      - The world does not need another OPINION – it needs the TRUTH!
      - We need to be able to correctly interpret the Bible – teach them about Jesus!
      - So people can be TRUST in the Lord – so he can make their paths STRAIGHT!

- **3RD – REMINDED TO AVOID FOOLISH CONVERSATIONS… VS. 16-18**
  - 1st – Shun profane and idle babblings… vs. 16-17
    - SHUN (*present / imperative*) – to turn your back towards something…
      - PROFANE (*worldly*) and idle BABBLINGS – literally empty sounds!
      - The foolish nonsense people in the world come up with – EMPTY words!
      - If someone has an HONEST question about their FAITH – then we want to answer it…
      - More often than not they are not asking questions – they are baiting an argument!
      - People who are just looking to trap us in FOOLISH conversations – WALK AWAY…
      - We are literally COMMANDED to turn our backs on them!
    - SHUN them – FOR they will increase to MORE UNGODLINESS…
      - FOR – speaking of the end result of their conversation…
      - MORE UNGODLINESS – an open irreverence and rebellion against God…
      - You may have noticed that if you tell someone GOOD news – it stops there…
      - But a piece of BAD news quickly becomes JUICY GOSSIP and spreads!
    - Their message spreads like CANCER…
      - CANCER – *gangraina* – where we get the word gangrene…
      - Gangrene is a type of tissue necrosis – where your skin begins to die…
      - It will spread quickly devouring all healthy tissue – until it kills the person…
      - The only cure – is to CUT OFF – the infected portion of the body!
      - These people who spread profane and idle babblings – are seeking to destroy FAITH…
      - They desire to being confusion and doubt to the Word of God…
      - Therefore like a diseased limb – we CUT THEM OFF – in order or save the body!
  - 2nd – Paul gave the example of Hymenaeus and Philetus…
    - Hymenaeus – named after the Greek god of marriage…
      - Philetus – beloved – one of the disciples of Hymenaeus…
      - These men had STRAYED from THE TRUTH – saying the resurrection already occurred…
      - In other words Jesus had already come back – and we all missed the rapture!
    - STRAYED – to miss the mark – shooting for a target but missing it completely…
      - Instead of teaching the Word – these men STRAYED and taught their own ideas…
      - And their IDLE babblings – were destroying the faith of some believers!
      - Williams Miller was a minister in the 1800s – said Jesus was coming in the year 1844...
      - People sold everything to prepare - Jesus did not come – the GREAT disappointment!
      - Misinterpreting the Bible can lead to us being VERY confused…
      - But we are not given the Word of God so we know WHEN Jesus will return…
      - We are given His Word - so we know HOW to live our lives – UNTIL He returns!
      - And if people had known their Bibles – they would never have listened to Hymenaeus!
      - **Mark 13:32** – "No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen."
- **4TH – REMINDED WHO WE ARE… VS. 19**
  - 1st – Nevertheless – the FOUNDATION of God stands (*perfect*) strong (*stereos*) …
    - What is the FOUNDATION – this SEAL – the Lord knows those that are His!
      - SEAL – 16x in NT – fourteen times in the book of Revelation…
      - SEAL - that ONLY Jesus Christ has the power to open - **Revelation 2:5**
      - SEAL - so powerful that satan will be bound by it for 1000 years – **Revelation 20:3**
      - Meaning that although there are going to be people who walk away from the church…
      - Such as Hymenaeus and Philetus – and those who followed their false doctrines…
      - It will ONLY be those who are not SEALED - because Jesus knows those that are His…
      - God KNOWS everything – so He KNOWS those who are going to get to heaven!
    - We might look at someone and think – well they are not going to make it…

- I think of Sampson – who did not do on un-selfish thing in his whole life!
- Yet - **Hebrews 11** - list him among the great men of faith in the Old Testament!
- Or we might look at someone and think – for sure they are going to make it…
- They are always at church – they are always helping out others!
- **Matthew 7:22** – "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord'… and then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you'."

▪ We do not see the heart…
- **I Samuel 16:7** - "People judge by outward appearance, the LORD looks at the heart."
- We need to be careful not to judge people – whether they are saved or not…
- We are not called to DECIDE who makes it to heaven – we just INVITE everyone to come!

o 2nd – Everyone who calls on Christ…
▪ Let everyone who names the name of Christ – DEPART (*imperative*) from iniquity…
- If we SAY we have faith in Jesus – it should be SHOWN in how we live our lives…
- Not that we are perfect – but we DEPART from iniquity (*open lifestyle of sin*) …
- Our lives after we believe in Jesus should also be different – changed!

▪ It is easy to say we have FAITH and believe in Jesus – but the proof is in our actions…
- **James 2:17-18** – "I cannot see your faith if you do not have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds."
- If we say we are Christians – but still live like the world – do we really have faith…
- We can call ourselves Christians – but are continually to living in sin – are we really…
- Only God knows the heart – we do not know – but be sure God does!

- **5TH – REMINDED WHERE WE LIVE… VS. 20-21**

o 1st – In a GREAT HOUSE there are many POTS… vs. 20
▪ Some are made of Gold and Silver – others of wood and CLAY…
▪ There are POTS meant to HONOR and others meant for DISHONOR…
▪ There are SPECIAL POTS – the fine china and silverware used for very important occasions…
▪ Then there are the are ordinary POTS – used for every occasion - like in the bathroom!
▪ It is the same in the HOUSE of God - we get to choose what kind of POT we want to be…
▪ God is going to use our lives no matter what - but how will He use us...
▪ Are we going to be special POTS used for extraordinary purposes - or ordinary POTS!

o 2nd – How do we choose to be a SPECIAL POT… vs. 21
▪ If anyone CLEANSES (*subjunctive*) himself from THESE – he will be a vessel of honor…
- CLEANSES – from the root word to PRUNE – used in **John 15**…
- **John 15:2** – "Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."
- If we cut away THESE – iniquity – the sin that seeks to temp us – **Hebrews 12:1**
- We will be SANCTIFIED (*perfect*) – HOLY – useful to the Master…
- Prepared for every GOOD (*agathos – internally good*) work – we will be SPECIAL POTS!

▪ During the course of a day POT get dirty from interacting with the world...
- We pick up dirt on our feet as we walk / sweat / get dirt on our hands...
- The way to clean yourself when you are dirty - is to wash up with a bar of soap!
- In the same way when we get dirty spiritually from being in the world...
- Perhaps an image we see on TV - or something we hear someone say...
- It gets in our head - perhaps temps our heart - and makes us unclean!

▪ The solution is to use a spiritual bar of soap to clean ourselves up!
- **John 15:3** - "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."
- The way that God CLEANS us up is by washing us in the water of the Word!
- Because His Word convicts us of our sin – shows us right from wrong…
- If we feel like you are covered with the filth of this world – take a Bible bath!

- And we will become HOLY – prepared for EVERY good work – a SPECIAL POT!

- **6TH – REMINDED TO FLEE… VS. 22**
  - 1st – FLEE (*present / imperative*) – youthful lusts…
    - Ephesus – where young Timothy was a pastor - was a very immoral city…
      - On the main walkway in Ephesus – between the Theatre and Celsus library…
      - There is a foot carved into the road – pointing the way to the local brothel!
      - Flee youthful lusts – if you think we will compromise - stay away!
      - Do not be alone with a girl – do not go into a room by yourself – stay in public...
      - It is not worth a little pleasure – to risk falling into sin – risk our walk with God!
    - If we do not run - we will give into sin...
      - King David learned this with his affair with Bathsheba – **II Samuel 11:2**
      - He had seen - an unusually beautiful woman – taking a bath...
      - He should have looked away right then – but instead he kept looking…
      - Then the looking was not enough – he had to have her (*she was already married*)
      - He ended up having an affair – then murdering her husband to cover it up!
      - We like to think we are strong - that we will make the right decisions...
      - It only takes one moment of weakness - to make a very poor choice...
      - Be wise - be smart - keep your guard up / and run when temptation comes!
  - 2nd – What we run towards…
    - It is not just running AWAY from youthful lusts – we run TOWARDS…
      - RIGHTEOUSNESS – NOUN – the PATH that leads to Jesus…
      - FAITH – NOUN –the KEY that opens up the door to living for Jesus…
      - LOVE – NOUN – the REASON why we chose this path – because of the Love of Jesus…
      - PEACE – NOUN – speaks of the RESULT of running towards Jesus!
      - **John 14:27** – "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
      - We do not just run away from sin – run towards Jesus…
      - Because only in Jesus do we have the power to overcome our desire to sin!
      - Only He can change our heart allowing us to live a righteous life!
    - WITH THOSE – who call on the Lord will a PURE heart!
      - When we run towards Jesus – we do not run alone…
      - Everyone else who calls on the Lord out of a PURE heart – is running with us!

- **7TH – REMINDED TO BE PATIENT… VS. 23-26**
  - 1st – AVOID (*present / imperative*) – FOOLISH and UNLEARNED questions… vs. 23
    - FOOLISH – *mōros* – questions that are so obvious they should not be asked…
      - A FOOLISH question would be – do we have to obey what Jesus says in the Bible…
      - **Matthew 7:26** – "Everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish [same word] man who built his house on the sand… the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."
    - UNLEARNED – only here NT – from the root meaning to TRAIN a child…
      - The suggestion is a question that comes from someone who does NOT belong to the Lord…
      - **Hebrews 12:6 –** "Whom the LORD loves He chastens [same root word], and scourges every son whom He receives…"
      - Meaning someone who has UNLEARNED – is not a true SON in the FAITH!

    - We AVOID these kind of questions – because we KNOW they only cause STRIFE…
      - I have on occasion gotten involved in online – DISCUSSIONS – with people…

- They asked FOOLISH and UNLEARNED questions – what day of the week do we worship…
- More often than not the conversation devolves – it just ends up causing STRIFE!

o 2nd – The SERVANT of the Lord… vs. 24-26
  - The SERVANT of the Lord must NOT quarrel…
    - QUARREL – verb form of same word from verse 23 – to cause STRIFE…
    - If we are not to cause STRIFE – how do we deal with FOOLISH / UNLEARNED questions!
  - Paul gives us three ADJECTIVES that describe our response!
    - GENTLE unto all – 2x in NT – used to describe a mother to a newborn child…
    - ABLE to TEACH – 2x in NT – having the ability to RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word…
    - PATIENT – only here NT – willing to endure evil that is hurled at us!
    - In other words we are NOT reactive towards those who ask FOOLISH questions…
    - We are PATIENT with them – recognizing they are NOT mature / or NOT saved…
    - And take the time to work through the Bible to instructs them in the TRUTH!
  - WHY – that God MIGHT grant them repentance…
    - Coming to them in HUMILITY (*meekness*) – not relying on our power…
    - We INSTRUCT those who oppose themselves – so they are no longer UNLEARNED…
    - HOPING – God will grant them repentance (*subjunctive*) – a change of heart…
    - So that they may KNOW – *epignōsis* - complete understanding of THE TRUTH!
  - Then they will ESCAPE the snare of the devil…
    - Come to their SENSES (*subjunctive*) – to become SOBER – no longer deceived…
    - And ESCAPE the SNARE of the devil – who has taken them CAPTIVE (*perfect*) to do his will!
    - We are in a battle for the hearts of minds of those who do not know Jesus!
    - Satan has put a lot of arguments in the world to keep people from seeing Jesus...
    - Every one of them with only one purpose - meant to keep men from heaven!
    - Those who are blinded by satan to the message of the Gospel - **II Corinthians 4:4**
    - We have the key to set them free – and we need to humbly give it to them!