

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

"Important Words"

2 Timothy 2:14-18

Introduction

1. Words have significant meanings. They convey thoughts. Scripture speaks about reporting on words (Matt. 12:36, 37). The Psalmist was concerned about words (139:23, 24).
2. Some neglect the decisive weight of words. They should be watched. Jokes are in order and many need more humor. Nonetheless, in matters of eternity, carefulness and sobriety are in order. Listen to what the Book says about words from our text:-

1. Something PERILOUS v. 14.

a. Remember Paul counsels Timothy to remind the saints of the things he has just discussed (vv. 11-13). Indeed, it is to be done with diligence. The compound verb for "charge" means to do it with solemnity (Acts 2:40; 20:23). When it is realized this is done "before the Lord," then an added weight is given to the admonition. Rarely is the dignity of the preacher's word accepted. Men lean on other professions with strength, but the Bible truth is too often ignored. We need men who charge as a prophet of God. Paul did and he urges Timothy to do the same!

b. Avoid The content of Paul's charge concerns the idea of quarrels. Now, controversy is necessary at times, but one should be careful. Paul got into arguments (Acts 14) and actually withstood Peter to the face (Gal. 2). If it had not been for Athanasius against Arius at the Council of Nicea, 325 A.D., where would our orthodoxy concerning Christ be today?!? But what Paul warns Timothy here is of controversy which has no useful profit. To engage in that is to end up with a dreadful situation. The word used in the text for "subvert" may be transliterated as "catstrophe." It means that the hearers get upset and are overthrown. Not all things need to be said. Watch the tongue (James 3).

2. Something PERNICIOUS vv. 16-18.

a. Danger "Shun" means to "go around" and the middle voice means to turn oneself around so as to avoid something. Superfluous words and those which are unhallowed are to be avoided! The reason? They cut forward (like in building a road) ungodliness. There is no spiritual goal gained, but more and more evil. We can, therefore,

expect evil to abound more and more. But the believer is to avoid it!

b. Disease Evil words and ideas will increase and abound. So much so, that it will be like the growth of gangrene, the transliteration of the word rendered "canker." The verb "eat" means to have pasture and that is what this sort of thing does. It feeds on itself and grows! The total disintegration of truth will come when antiChrist comes, but we can expect more and more error to abound unto the coming of our Lord. It was present in the days of Paul and he actually names two men. Hymaeneus is already in the annals of the Word (1 Tim. 1:20). Philetus is not known outside this text. The perfect tense of the verb for resurrection affirms that they totally denied the truth. It is the old Gnostic error which considered the body evil. This is just illustrative of the junk we have today!

c. Damage Error spreads and actually upsets some (v. 14) but here it is revealed that error "overthrows some." Obviously, these are professors and not born again people (cf. v. 19). It remains true, however, that error does keep many from the truth and an affirmation of it.

3. Something PRECIOUS v. 15.

a. To study The Greek means to "given diligence" (cf. 4:9, 21; Eph. 4:3). Whatever others do, Timothy is to apply himself to the Word and be approved before God. Not a subverter, but a worker. How we need students of the Word today! The pews are starved because the pulpit is also!

b. To show This verb means to "present" (cf. Rom. 6:13, 19; 12:1). It suggests the idea of placing at the disposal of others. By so doing, Timothy would give evidence that he is a worker and without disgrace. He will pass the test before God!

c. To share What is gained is apparently to be taught. The final phrase of the verse means to "cut straight" (cf. LXX in Prov. 3:6; 11:5). It is required that one hold a straight course with the Word of truth. This may well include the dispensational approach to the Bible.

Conclusion Careful study of the Word is the object. Saints must be reminded to keep profitableness as a priority. Foolish junk should be studiously avoided. Amen and amen.