

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 2:22-26

Introduction

1. The initial chapter of this epistle holds high the Gospel of Christ. True believers must guard it at all costs (1:13).

2. The second chapter advances the Gospel as committed to the believer (vv. 1, 2). He will suffer for it (v. 12). Participating in the Gospel will manifest positions as a soldier (vv. 3, 4), an athlete (v. 5), a farmer (v. 6), a worker (v. 15), a vessel (vv. 20, 21), and now as a servant (vv. 22-26).

3. The portion, as a servant, is described in the text. No reasonable doubt is left as to the pattern to be followed:—

1. FLEE v. 22.

The present imperative of the verb means to run from "youthful lusts." "Youthful" is only found here in the N.T. and linked with "lusts" suggests there are certain peculiarities for the younger people to be avoided. A similar expression concerning Timothy's youth has already been written (1 Tim. 4:12). Some things in which youth seem to find a difficulty are: desire for prominence, overfond of novelties, too much in a hurry and no patience, live for the present, irresponsible and forget consequences, etc. Some older people never grow up, so have similar problems.

2. FOLLOW v. 22.

The present imperative is again used here. It means to involve oneself in a chase. It is a favorite word of Paul (Rom. 9:30, 31; 12:13; 1 Cor. 14:1, Phil 3:12; 1 Thess. 5:15). Four items are to be followed:

a. Righteousness This is imparted righteousness. It is the life lived. Right dealing is in view.

b. Faith Faithfulness, fidelity, and accountability are in view. Here is reliability and trust. A type of moral character is the real issue and not a commitment.

c. Love This provides warmth and glow for truth. Mark that it is included, but not given over prominence.

d. Peace No factions! This is what keeps grit out of machinery for smooth running! One woman saw her son in a military parade. Something was wrong. She said: "look, my son is the only one in step!" Not peace at any price, but certainly peace!

3. FORSAKE vv. 23-24.

a. Questions The Greek word means "seekings" and is in the plural (cf. Acts 25:20; 1 Tim. 6:4). The kind involved are foolish or stupid, a root from which the term "moron" is derived. They are also "unlearned" and this term means undisciplined or untrained. It is the search for the novel which is to be avoided. The present middle imperative of the verb points to a refusal which really means to beg off! Reason?--such questions beget battles. This is known! The verb used here connotes innate knowledge. Mere questions lead to an uncalled for importance among those who discuss them and these produce unwarranted controversies.

b. Strifes The true servant of the Lord will not strive. The verb is the same root as the noun in the previous verse. It means "battle." The word for servant is "bond slave." There is moral obligation given here for the Word declares "must not" strive. The obvious reason for all of this is one's relation to the Lord (Matt. 11:29, 30).

4. FOCUS vv. 24-26.

a. Gentleness This word points to one's demeanor and suggests affableness, mildness. This is "to all men."

b. Aptness This is skill in teaching. Not arguments but being explanatory. Ability to teach without argument.

c. Patience This word means to put up with evil. It does not condone wrong, but provides ability to work with persons involved in it.

d. Meekness Linked to the word for "schooling" the term means to have humble selflessness in the process of getting truth across.

NOTE: The above attitudes are to be expressed toward a certain group of persons for specific reasons:

a. To opposers The verb means to place oneself in opposition to someone.

b. To repentance The manner advanced is to get the opposition to repent. Word means to change mind.

c. To acknowledge truth Goal of all the focus is to have opposition get full knowledge of truth. Not love, but doctrinal truth!

d. To recover Verb means to sober again. As if mentally intoxicated by the devil's snare. The perfect passive participle "taken captive" shows that the devil had these persons, but the recovery is "unto the will of God."

Conclusion As a servant, the true believer will have a conduct and ministry which is patterned by our Lord. His life will help men to experience the will of God. Amen.