

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Lesson 4

2 Timothy 2:14-26

*And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome,
but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.
2 Timothy 2:23-24*

The life of a follower of Christ requires both our *obedience* to God's calling and a commitment to Christlike *character*. We are to be faithful in ministry and also virtuous in conduct. We are called to a life of devoted service and also blameless behavior. The way we live has an impact—for good or for bad—on the cause of Christ.

1. Read 2 Timothy 2. **What is God's calling on our lives?**

In order to get the full force of Paul's exhortation to Timothy, please begin by reading the entire 2nd chapter, including the passage we studied last time.

- a. Looking back at last week's lesson, what is the key challenge that Paul presents to Timothy in 2:1-7? State it in just a few words.
- b. What is the essence of the future-focused argument that Paul makes in 2:11-12? Summarize it in just a few words.

2. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26 **God calls us to know and proclaim His truth**

In verse 14, the term "these things" refers back to the "things" mentioned in verse 2—it refers to the entire body of God's revealed truth that Timothy had heard Paul teach and preach during his missionary journeys. Paul charges Timothy to keep reminding God's people of this body of truth.

- a. Read again 2 Timothy 2:14-15. How does Paul describe in overview a person who is "approved" in her work for our Lord?

- b. **For deeper thought and personal application:** How would you explain what it means to “correctly handle the word of truth”? (2 Tim. 2:15) What would that entail? Comment on your own understanding of how we are to...
- i. Accurately *understand* the message of the word of truth
 - ii. Give appropriate *honor and authority* to the word of truth
 - iii. *Apply* the word of truth to our lives and live in obedience to it.
 - iv. Share and *teach others* the word of truth
3. In last week’s section, Paul used three examples to illustrate the nature of the responsibility that each Christian assumes. The examples were the soldier (2:4), the athlete (2:5), and the farmer (2:6). What aspects of the Christian’s calling were highlighted by these three metaphors?
- a. The soldier:
 - b. The athlete:
 - c. The farmer:
4. Read again verses 15, 20-21, and 24. **God calls us to a holy way of life**
- a. What three terms do you see in these verses that characterize the role of the believer?

According to these descriptive terms, each of us comes to faith in Christ for a purpose. We have a calling. We are to be *workmen*—responsible to proclaim God’s truth. We are to be *instruments* that God uses for His good purposes. We are to be His *servants* who exemplify His character. Our lives are set apart to serve Him and represent Him. That is our calling.

- b. **For personal application:** How can we focus our lives in order to become useful for the work that God has called us to do? What temptations or distractions stand in our way? (see also 2 Tim. 2:16, 19, 22)
- c. We may encounter people who promote false teachings. There may be those who will mock our faith, challenge our belief, and contradict the gospel. How are we to respond? What characteristics must we strive to display as we represent Christianity in our sphere of influence? (2 Tim. 2:23-26)
- d. **For personal application:** Think about how your attitudes or behavior may negatively impact a neighbor’s or colleague’s view of Christianity. Are there areas where you need to change in order to display the goodness and kindness that reflect the heart of Christ?

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
and who correctly handles the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15*

My Prayer:

*Father, I want to be a worker who need not be ashamed.
I pray that by Your grace you would enable me
to live a holy life and to correctly handle the word of truth.*