

Vessels Fit For The Master's Use
2 Timothy 2:14-26

Introduction:

A. Choosing a Cup for Coffee

1. I love to drink coffee!
2. Sometimes I think about how good that first cup of coffee will be the next morning as I am going to sleep.
3. I think, "If I can just get to sleep, then that cup will come sooner!"
4. Then I wake up and go to the kitchen and open the cabinet and choose a cup for my coffee.
5. 4 favorite cups – why do I choose the one I choose each day?

B. When I Pray

1. One thing that I want more than anything else in my life is for God to use me!
 - a) So I pray and I ask, "Lord, please use me!"
 - b) But I also pray at the same time, "Lord, please cleanse me of all unrighteousness!" because I know that God will not use a vessel that is not clean!
2. Our life on this earth is short and fragile.
 - a) Riches pass, personal pleasure is empty apart from Christ
 - b) The only thing that will outlive us is the way we impact the world for Jesus Christ.
 - c) This is the legacy that will bring the most joy for each one of us!
3. Our passage today tells us what kind of people God uses!
 - a) You may think that God uses people who have impressive abilities and gifts.
 - (1) Spiritual gifts play a part, but they are not the main thing God looks for.
 - b) You may think that God uses a person who has been to seminary and has a lot of training.
 - (1) While seminary has its place, I know many people who graduated from seminary, but they're not even in the stadium, let alone in the game!
 - c) You may think that God uses a person who has a great knowledge of the Bible.
 - (1) Being careful students of the Bible is important, but it is not the main thing.
 - (2) You may be a renowned Bible scholar, and yet be detrimental to the cause of Jesus Christ.
 - d) The simple message of the Bible is that God uses cleaned people who are defined by two characteristics: *God uses cleansed people who flee sin and pursue godliness.*
4. If we wish to be vessels of honor, to do our best to present ourselves to God as one approved, then Paul tells us some simple things to keep in mind.
 - ¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.
 - ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

I. The Foundation of Our Salvation – v. 19

Remember that the foundation upon which our salvation rests is unshakable!

2 Timothy 2:19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

A. There Are False Teachers Out There

1. 2 Timothy 2:16-18
 - ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,
 - ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,
 - ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

B. Jesus is the foundation of our faith

1. Isaiah 28:16
 - ¹⁶ therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'
2. 1 Corinthians 3:10-11
 - ¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and

someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

C. Salvation Is Sealed

1. There is great comfort in the fact that our salvation is sealed!
2. Seal = emblem of ownership and security
 - a) Ephesians 4:30
³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - b) In the Bible, a seal is a mark of ownership and security.
 - c) No one would dare break a Roman seal and no one can break God's seal on your life!
 - d) Paul quoted Moses: "The Lord knows them that are His" (Numbers 16:5).
3. We can go to this truth for comfort
 - a) Hebrews 6:18-19
¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.
¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

D. Depart From Iniquity

1. iniquity = literally, "un-right-ness"
 - a) Psalm 34:14 ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
 - b) Psalm 37:27 ²⁷ Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever.
 - c) Proverbs 3:7 ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

II. Two Types of Vessels

2 Timothy 2:20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

A. The Great House

1. The Great House described by Paul is the church.
2. The *foundation* of the house is safe and secure because God's seal is on it.

B. Vessel

1. A container with a purpose
 - a) To be filled and poured out
 - b) A vessel does nothing on its own!
 - c) It sits on the shelf waiting for the Master to fill it and pour it out
 - d) They are always ready for every good work!
2. The two kinds
 - (1) Gold and Silver - vessels of honor fit for all tasks
 - (2) Wood and clay - vessels of dishonor – fit only for some tasks
3. Clearly, Paul is presenting us with a choice:
 - a) Do you want to be a gold or silver vessel, used for honor?
 - b) Or will you be a cheap clay pot, used for dishonor?

C. To Be Used as a Vessel of Honor, You Must Cleanse Yourself

2 Timothy 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

1. We must be cleansed
 - a) Paul's emphasis is on our responsibility to cleanse ourselves from the defilement of sin, especially the sin of false teaching, so that we will be vessels for honor.
 - (1) Psalm 119:9-11
⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!
¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
2. We must be sanctified – set apart, Holy
 - a) You are the one who makes sure that your life is set apart for God.