

2 Timothy 2:14-26
'Two Ways to Deal with Error'

Theme

- (14)
- (15)
- (16)
- (17)
- (18)
- (23)
- (24)
- (25)

Structure

- In 14-19 Paul instructs Timothy to avoid the kind of debate that leads to error spreading
- In 20-21 Paul provides an illustration of his point
- In 22-26 Paul supplies Timothy with principles for maintaining godly relationships in the context of theological conflict

1. Some opponents need to be avoided (14-21)

Let's pick it up in (14)

14 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 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. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.' 20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. 21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Paul begins with an exhortation to Timothy to remind the church family of 'these things'.

He's referring back

He's referring forward

The comfort

The challenge

2. Some opponents need to be instructed (22-26)

22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Conclusion

1. Some opponents need to be avoided. They are **the champions** of false teaching. We're trying not to give them a platform.
2. Some opponents need to be instructed. They are **the victims** of false teaching. We're trying to lead them to repentance.

What is Timothy to do?

- He has to avoid false teaching himself:
- He has to give himself to true teaching: