

## Woodland Baptist Church

February 4, 2018 - Morning Worship

### 2 Timothy 2:14-19, Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

#### 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Today is a very special passage of Scripture, not more important than others, just significant in that an entire ministry was formed based upon this passage that impacts the lives of boys and girls all over the world.
- b) We will hear from a sampling of those boys and girls in just a moment - we will read the text and pray and then one of our AWANA commanders, Mrs. Bill Lester will come with our children and give us a sample of the great theological work they do.

#### 2) READ 2 Timothy 2:14-19

#### 3) Verse 14 - AVOID Doctrinal QUARRELING

- a) **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.**
- b) There are three things to be done here: **first**, identify what Paul means by “these things” and also identify who “them” is. **Second**, expound his command to not quarrel about words and **finally** expound the consequences of quarreling about words.
- c) **FIRST** - Them and These Things - Identify
  - i) Who is “them,” Paul says to “remind them.” It must be faithful leaders that Timothy is close to and who have maintained their outer faithfulness to the truth. Onesiphorus and others - those are staying the course with Paul and Timothy.
  - ii) Remind them of “these things” - what are these things?
    - (1) The situation - those that have abandoned Paul and the one who has stood firm, Onesiphorus. Spiritual warfare - the apostasy that unfortunately we will always have to deal with until the end.
    - (2) Be strengthened by the grace in Christ.

- (3) Train up new leaders in the gospel.
- (4) Share in suffering as a good soldier, athlete and farmer.
- (5) Look to Jesus - risen from the dead, offspring of David

(a) If we die with him, we live with him, if we endure, we will reign with him, if we deny him, he will deny us, if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.

d) SECOND - Meaning of "**Charge them before God** not to *quarrel about words*"-

i) We've heard that before! **1 Timothy 5:21** - In the **presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you** to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

(1) It's interesting, we seem to perform better when we know people are watching us - **Hawthorne Affect** - 1958 by Henry Landsberger - electric company that did some experiments with lighting and other work environment variables. What they found was that when the workers were told they were involved in an experiment and would have people monitoring their work, they performed better than when they were not.

ii) I would say that holds true today, I know my children are less apt to get into things they know are off limits when I'm around...If we work harder and watch ourselves more closely when we are monitored by humans...how much more should we watch ourselves when we know an omnipotent God not only sees what we do, but knows our heart?

(1) Timothy, I charged **YOU**...now you charge **THEM**...in the presence of God **not to quarrel about words**. What on earth does Paul mean when he says this to Timothy?

iii) We need to dig a little and see. First let's read forward a few verses and see if Paul doesn't explain himself, second, let's go backwards to 1 Timothy again and see if he helps us there.

(1) Reading forward to 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.**

- (a) That certainly helps - from reading on just a few verses, Paul uses more descriptive language: avoid irreverent babble and this babble leads people to more ungodliness...so whatever this teaching is, it's heresy and the teachers are not receiving correction when confronted about what they are doing.
- (2) Paul says this teaching **spreads like gangrene** (that means it is deadly and can become unstoppable) - then he names *Hymenaeus and Philetus* - and describes them as swerving from the truth. Paul says that they have "swerved from the truth" by saying the resurrection has already happened.
- e) Based on this evidence, we are even more justified in returning to 1 Timothy because we know Hymanaesus was named there.
- i) **1 Timothy 1:3** - As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, 4 nor to **devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations** rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.
- ii) **1 Timothy 1:19-20** - By rejecting this, some have made *shipwreck of their faith*, 20 among whom are *Hymenaeus and Alexander*, whom I have *handed over to Satan* that they may learn not to blaspheme.
- f) *Not to quarrel about words* - this is serious, serious doctrinal error Paul is referring to; again, we don't know exactly what the nature of the teaching was, but it was some mythical, speculative interpretation of the Old Testament genealogy, that affected their understanding of the New Testament, specifically the nature of the resurrection.
- i) The key word here to hold on to is *quarrel* - it means to dispute about words; an argument or disagreement. Have you ever been in a quarrel? They are no fun and most of the time they end on horrible, I'm talking horrible terms. Most of the time, relationships are ended, churches split, marriages are put in jeopardy.
- (1) **It does no good, only ruins the hearers** - it's interesting, that word, "ruin," in Greek, you know what it is? *Katastrophe* - catastrophe - to do serious harm with the implication of misleading.

- (2) Faith comes through hearing, hearing the Word of God and when you have certain individuals pervert and twist it, you have a recipe for the complete and total destruction of souls, like, *Hymanaus* who made a shipwreck of his faith.
- ii) Timothy and Paul go into this meeting with Hymanaus and all these other men. The heretics start talking false doctrine and Paul and Timothy begin to correct them and here we go. Before you know it, voices get louder, a gentle discussion turns into hostile arguing, they get out of their seats and move toward one another, their faces get red, they start calling each other names.....
- (1) So many people have left the church over situations just like this. They were not necessarily a part of what happened but they witnessed the quarrel and it made them sick to see professing "Christian" people act like that toward one another....so, they left, and they never came back. They were ruined by what they witnessed.
- iii) **James 1:19-21** - 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the **anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God**. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

#### 4) Verse 15 - Approved Workman are Not Ashamed

- a) 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) **Do your best to present yourself to God** - the Bible is very clear that there will come a time when you will stand before Christ and be judged by Him; Christians we will go before Christ at His Judgement Seat and somehow He will review our life as a believer. Somehow that is not completely clear in the Word of God, Christ will take our good deeds and our bad deeds as believers and our eternal reward will be representative of the total sum of those deeds.
- (1) Our goal as believers in this life is enter into the next life and present ourself to God as one approved, a worker who has not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

ii) We are WORKERS, we are also his WORKMANSHIP - one of the things that a worker does is to please his employer, in our case, our employer is our savior and his name is Jesus Christ - we aim to be approved by Him!

(1) How are we approved so we will not be ashamed? That is always the question we ask when we are working for someone, right? What is the job description - what are we supposed to do to please you, Lord? So we can be approved?

**b) Rightly handling the Word of Truth -**

i) This is the primary objective - to take the Word of God and preach and teach it as God intended - that is the primary difference between a Hymanaeus and Timothy; Hymanaeus does not handle it right...Timothy does.

**ii) Rightly Handling the Word of Truth -**

(1) **Dr. J. MacArther** - "means literally to cut straight. It was used of a craftsman cutting a straight line, of a farmer plowing a straight furrow, of a mason setting a straight line of bricks, or of workmen building a straight road.

(2) **Dr. Kent Hughes** - "Rightly handling the word of truth requires getting it straight and giving it straight. Impart the word of truth without deviation, straight, undiluted."

(3) **The late, Dr. William Hendrickson**, "The man who handles the word of truth properly does not change, pervert, mutilate, or distort it, neither does he use it with a wrong purpose in mind. On the contrary, he prayerfully interprets Scripture in the light of Scripture. He courageously, yet lovingly, applies its glorious meaning to concrete conditions and circumstances, doing this for the glory of God, the conversion of sinners, and the edification of believers."