Bible Study Lesson (Teacher)

**Series:** **“Improve our lives each day”**

**Lesson #2: Everyday We Have A Chance To**

**Improve our Skills**

**II Timothy 2:14-21 (ESV)**

**Key Verses: 20-21**

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**Introduction**: Last week Church and visiting friends we began our new Bible Study Series on “**Improving Our Lives Each Day**.”  **Each day God gives us opportunities to improve our lives** as believers. Our first lesson was on **Increase Our Knowledge Each Day.** Tonight’s lesson will be “**Improving Our Skills Each Day**.” Let’s look at our Study text for tonight, **II Timothy 2:20 (ESV).**   **“*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.
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*.”**

**Questions for Personal Growth:**

**I. Useful and Unuseful Believers (Vs.20-21).**

The church has some vessels or people who are like **Gold and Silver**; that is, they honor Christ, and the church has some vessels or people who are like **wood and clay**; that is, they dishonor Christ.

1. **The Unuseful are described as Dishonorable – Wood and Clay** (**V.20**): They are utensils to dishonor, no matter how popular they may be today. Wood and clay will not survive the test of fire.

a. Their Words are Dishonorable (**Vs.14, 16-18**). There are three kinds of unprofitable talk that go on among believers.

* First, there is the **Trivial** (Petty) talk that passes the time away, talk that fails to build up the believer.
* Second, there is the talk that engages in **Criticism** and **Gossip**, talk that tears a person down.
* Third, there is the talk that enjoys discussing the **Theories** and **Speculations** of theology.

Notice that their Words and Babbling can Lead to Three things:

* **Ungodliness** or **Ungodly Talk** (**V.16**). The text gives analogy that such words are like a Sore, Gangrene, or Cancer it spreads.
* **False Teaching** (**V.14, 16-17**) Do not argue and strive over words that do not **Profit** the hearers. He gives two examples in the text “Hyme-naeus and Phi-letus”. Do not upset or tear down people with your words.
* **Anger** (V.17, 24-26)

Scriptures:

* **II Timothy 2:23 (NKJV) “*But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife*.”**
* **Titus 3:9 (NASB) “*But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless*.”**

b. They **Entangle** themselves with the affairs of this world (**V.4**, I John 2:14).

c. They have **Sinful** (Lustful) desires (Vs.19, 22).

**I Thessalonians 4:3-4 (NKJV) “*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor*…”**

These Characteristics of a dishonorable believer God can’t use.

2. **The Useful are described as Honorable – Gold and Silver** (**V.20**).

a. They **Purge** (Cleanse) themselves (**V.21**). A person who purges himself from these will become a vessel unto honor. Note what it takes to become a noble vessel: it takes a purging. A person has to cleanse himself from...

• Behavior that is dishonorable and unrighteous.

• Words that are corruptible and dirty.

• Talk that is unclean and contaminating.

• Teaching that is false and cancerous.

**I John 3:3 (NIV) “*Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure***.”

b. They **Sanctify** themselves that is, **Set Apart** unto Christ and His service (**V.21**).

c. They are **Fit** to be employed by the Lord Jesus in promoting his work on earth; that is, Christ will be able to use him.

d. They are **Prepared** to every good work; that is, Christ will be able to use him for any work.

 **II Timothy 3:17 (NIV)** “***so that the man of God may be thoroughly Equipped for every good work***.” **II Timothy 3:17 (TLB) “*It is God’s way of making us well Prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone*.”**

**II. A Useful Vessel of Honor (V21)**

**II Timothy 2:21 (ESV) “*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*.”** A Useful Vessel is:

1. **A Student of God’s Word** (**V.15**)

We are to **Study** to be a true **Teacher** of God's Word. Now the word “**Study**” here has nothing to do with books and teachers. It means “to be **Diligent**, be zealous.” This word is in the Aorist Imperative, a **Command** to do this now. Don't delay. Do it effectively (**II Tim. 4:9**). The emphasis in this paragraph is that the **Workman** (Student) needs to be diligent in his labors (**Study**) so that he will not be ashamed when his work is **Inspected** (Approved).

a. A diligent worker or a workman is like:

* A Strong **Soldier** (**Useful Vessel**) Endures, Commits, and Obeys its Commander (**V.3**)
* A Strong **Athlete** (Useful Vessel) in the cause of Christ. The athlete is strong in discipline and self-denial (**V.5**).
* A **farmer** who really works. Work that is diligent and exhausting (**V.6**).

b. **Rightly Divides The Word of Truth** (**V.15**)

This text not only tells us to be **Diligent Students** of God’s Word, but also **Rightly Divide** it. The words “**rightly divide**” mean to cut straight. Believers are to cut straight to the **Truth**; they are not to take crooked paths and side tracks to the truth. We are to study the truth and rightly divide it.

**Psalm 119:160** “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”

**Daniel 10:21** “But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth…”

**Ephesians 1:13-14** “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

**James 1:18** “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

Once we have studied and learned the Word of God, we are to accurately teach the Word of God.

* When you Study the Word of God and Rightly Divide it, then you are **Able to Teach Others** (**V.2**). Everyday the Believer (Vessel of Honor) is studying to sharpen his tools and preparing him or herself to do Good Works for the Lord.
* The believer (the Vessel of Honor) will not be **Ashamed** when he faces the Lord Jesus Christ in the great Day of Judgment.