Bible Study Lesson (Teacher)

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

**Lesson #2: Every Day 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. Preparing Yourself to be 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. A Student of God’s Word (V.15)

We are to **Study** to be a true **Teacher** of God's Word. By study is meant to set your heart to be diligent and seek the approval of God.

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 2:21

**Key Idea:** Every day we have a chance to increase our skills.

**Questions for Family Growth:** What is the importance of preparation? What does 2 Tim. 2:21 say about our ability to engage in good works? What kind of goals should we be setting with respect to new skills in the Lord’s work?

**Wisdom for the Day:** Proverbs 20:6.