

A Tool in God's Hands – Part 2

“Focus on God's Word”

II Timothy 2:14–19 (CSB)

Introduction: We have been talking about being a Tool in God's Hand. That's the series we are in. II Timothy 2. He tells Timothy these are the things that I want you to **Go for** and the things that I want you to **Avoid**, and we will be able to see that tonight. There is nothing better than being **Used by God**, nothing more **Purposeful** than being used by God. So, let's **Learn** through II Timothy as we continue and see things we need to **Avoid** and things we need to **Invest** in, so that we can say, to be a tool in God's hand:

1. I must let go of Sin
2. I must get out some stuff
3. Then I am going to Go for it over here

So let us read **II Timothy 2:14-19 (CSB)**

“Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to fight about words. This is useless and leads to the ruin of those who listen. 15 Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. 16 Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, 17 and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among them. 18 They have departed from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and are ruining the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, bearing this inscription: The Lord knows those who are his, and let everyone who calls on the name of[c] the Lord turn away from wickedness.”

To be a tool in God's hands...

I. Avoid Useless Words (V.14).

“Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to fight about words. This is useless and leads to the ruin (Upside down) of those who listen.”

Paul encourages Timothy to Remind the people to not **Argue** and **Strive** over words that do not **Profit** the hearers/believers. That is petty matters nor over religious theories, speculations, and ideas. We are to be believers that stands on **The Word of God** and not going on anyone else's opinion. One of our Core Value at our church **Stay in the Word of God**. So, Paul tells Timothy don't you are the people get tangled up in useless words. This what happens church family if we do, we lose are Passion, Mission and Service for God. Useless words bring Division, Anger, Problems and one useless word start a fire. The Word of God **keeps us Focus**.

Let me share with you three kinds of unprofitable talk that go on among believers.

- First, there is the trivial 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.

Proverbs 4:14–15 (CSB) “Keep off the path of the wicked; don't proceed on the way of evil ones. 15 Avoid it; don't travel on it. Turn away from it, and pass it by.”

Ephesians 4:29 (CSB) “Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

I Timothy 6:4 (CSB) “he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words. From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions.”

II. Remember our Greatest Approval comes from God (V.15).

“Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.”

A tool in God’s Hands is one who study to be a True teacher of God’s Word. To study here means to set your heart upon be diligent and seek the Approval of God. Let me share this with you, many of us are looking for Approval, but not **from God**, but from Man.

Galatians 1:10 (ESV) “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

John 12:43 (NASB) “for they loved the approval of people rather than the approval of God.”

Any Believer who mishandles God’s Word is not Approved of God. This is the point of this verse: if we want God’s approval, if we want to be acceptable to God we must study and seek to be a true teacher of God’s Word.

Judges 6:17 (CSB) 17 “Then he said to him, “If I have found favor with you, give me a sign that you are speaking with me.”

Please understand that you and I have believers are living our lives From approval, not for approval.

III. Resist/Avoid Godliness (V.16-17 CSB).

16 “Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, 17 and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among them.”

This refers to anything that takes the focus off of the gospel and God’s Word. These irreverent and empty speech are godliness because they are unholy in contrast to the holiness of God’s Word. They are idle, because even though people like to hear them, they don’t have lasting value.

Colossians 2:8–10 (NLT) “Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. 9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. 10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.”

Matthew 7:15–16 (CSB) “Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. 16 You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles?”

IV. Instead, Stand Strong in God’s Word and Truth.

18 They have departed from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and are ruining the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, bearing this inscription: The Lord knows those who are his, and let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.”

1. In the preceding passage, Paul sounded as if he were under severe attack and might not stand against the rising tide of **deception** and **wickedness**. But here, he makes it clear, both to himself and to us that the **kingdom of God cannot be shaken**.

2. God has a plan, God has a purpose, God has a strategy, and it is not going to fail. It doesn't matter how many fall away, how many reject the truth, how many go their own way after profane and vain babblings — **Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands.**

3. There are two seals on the solid foundation of God.

- **The Lord knows those who are His:** Numbers 16:5 (CSB) “**Then he said to Korah and all his followers, “Tomorrow morning the Lord will reveal who belongs to him, who is set apart, and the one he will let come near him. He will let the one he chooses come near him.”**”
- **Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity:** Numbers 16:26-27 (ESV) “**And he spoke to the congregation, saying, “Depart, please, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be swept away with all their sins.” 27 So they got away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, together with their wives, their sons, and their little ones.”**”

I Corinthians 3:11 (CSB) “**For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.**”

Matthew 7:24–25 (CSB) “**Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.**”

Isaiah 28:16 (CSB) “Therefore the Lord God said: “Look, I have laid a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will be unshakable.”