

## A Tool in God's Hands – Part 3

### “Courage and Righteousness”

#### II Timothy 2:20–26

**INTRODUCTION:** For about two months, we have been talking about being a Tool in God's Hands. We said nothing is greater when God uses you, when God is able to do something with you, when He can make a difference in your life and work through you. We get to be one of the Tools in God's Hands to be used for His Glory. Again, God can use you, me and many others to make a difference in our world.

#### I. WHAT AN HONOR TO BE A TOOL IN GOD'S HANDS (V.20-21)

***“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also those of wood and clay; some for honorable use and some for dishonorable. 21 So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”***

Notice in this verse Paul gives Timothy an Illustration on how the Church needs to go, this is how things work.

1. The large house here represents the **Church** (V20). Now, in the church there are:
  - a. Honorable vessels that will be used
  - b. There will be Dishonorable vessels
  - c. The church has people who are like Gold and Silver – They honor Christ
  - d. They are people in the church like Wood and Clay – That dishonor Christ

What is Paul telling Timothy and us today. There is going to be teachers of Truth And False teachers. Remember all through chapter 2, Paul has been talking about False Prophets.

2. Purging and Cleansing is needed to be a useable vessel for God (V.21).

**John 15:2 (CSB) “Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.”**

Clean yourself from what?

- Behavior that is dishonorable and unrighteous
- Words that are corruptible and dirty
- Talk that is unclean and polluted
- Teaching that is false and cancerous

When a Christian cleans him or herself from these things, he or she is (V.21)

1. Special Instrument
2. Set apart
3. Useful to the Master
4. For every good Work

How are we going to Prepare ourselves to be used by God?

II. WE HAVE TO HAVE COURAGE:

1. To Live the right Life In holiness of Character (V.22-25)

**“Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, because you know that they breed quarrels. 24 The Lord’s servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, 25 instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.”**

1. Flee youthful passion – I want you to live a life where Character is **Stronger** than your Action. I want to live better than I preach, teach (**Flee and Pursue**)

Question: What is the difference between Using God and God using You?

**I John 2:16 (CSB) “For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.”**

2. Invest in the right Relationships.

*“Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”*

a. Hang with the Right People (V.22)

We desire for Acceptance: We want friends. We want to fit in with their others. We want approval, and we want to be recognized.

**II Corinthians 6:14-18 (CSB)** *“Do not be yoked together with those who do not believe. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? 15 What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, as God said: I will dwell and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. 17 Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord; do not touch any unclean thing, and I will welcome you. 18 And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”*

b. Humility in our words and Tones and able to teach (V.23-24)

*“But reject foolish and ignorant disputes, because you know that they breed quarrels. The Lord’s servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient”*

- Avoid foolish discussions and speculations and avoid senseless controversy.

**Philippians 2:3 (CSB)** *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.”*

- Do not argue or fight with others. We must be Gentle, Kind, Considerate with each other. The goal is not to win the Argument but the Heart.

c. For the eternal goal of Repentance (V.25–26)

*“Instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. 26 Then they may come to*

*their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*”

How should we Approach and Correct each other as believers? We must do it in the \_\_\_\_\_ . Not in the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. A meek approach is the only approach that can lead a person to repentance.
- b. A meek approach is the only approach that can free a person from the snare of the devil.

### III. CHOOSE INTENTIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS OVER TRAPPING OF EVIL.

- “If men will not be the servants of God, they will become the captives of the Devil. Man’s freedom is his freedom to choose his master.” – Edmond Hiebert