

THE CHARGE

A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

Week 4, Day 1 - 2 Timothy 2:14-19

TEXT –

Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 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. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

INTRODUCTION –

As we read in 2 Timothy 2:14-19, Paul encourages us in the way we are to act as followers and proclaimers of this Gospel. He says this: Present yourself as one who God would approve of, work hard to be careful with your words, be someone who lives pure in every way and is ready for God to work through them. Did you notice where he said to be careful with your words? We read all over scripture that our tongues have the power of life and death. Have you ever been bullied by someone at school? Perhaps you've had a sibling yell at you, or a friend say a nasty thing about you behind your back. Our words and actions can cut deep. On the flip side, think of a time that you were complimented by a friend, or built up by a parent. Or when you've been encouraged by a coach or praised for a job well done at school. Those words can make us feel on top of the world! Both of these feelings come from the same source - the tongue. Take a look at what else the Bible says about our words -

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Proverbs 21:23 (CSB) *The one who guards his mouth and their tongue keeps himself out of trouble.*

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

1 Peter 3:10-12 (NIV) *For, 'Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

Luke 6:45 (NIV) *A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*

Did you notice that last verse? “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of”. In another translation it says, “From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (ESV). The way we speak means everything. Sometimes it can show us the things that are inside us that need to be made right. To be pure in speech and action requires us to be pure at the source - the heart! The only one who can make us pure from within is Jesus, who makes us white as snow through His sacrifice on the cross. As we work hard so we can present ourselves to God and receive his approval, we remember that it is only through Him that we find strength to press on towards the goal He has set for us.

QUESTIONS:

Q1 - We all fall short of the glory of God and mess up. Think of one way that you’ve fallen short this week. What was it? Why or how did it happen?

Q2 - God is with us all the time and knows our every thought and feeling. He is here for you, and He is with you! What can you do to lean more on Him this week as you seek to do what He’s asked of you?

APPLICATION/ACTION -

Think of one thing you need help to overcome or make right this week with God’s help. Maybe it’s that gnawing temptation that often gets the better of you or your fear that stops you from doing the right thing when it’s hard. Get out a piece of paper and write a prayer about this. Put the paper somewhere that you will see daily. Commit to praying this prayer every day this week and see how God moves and restores!

PRAYER -

God, thank you for your forgiveness when I fall short. Thank you for your word that teaches us right from wrong and how we should live this life to best please you and do right by your name. God, please help me this week as I navigate life. Would you help me to be careful with my words, to be encouraging and loving instead of hurtful or dishonest. Lead me to goodness and purity in all situations; show me what a pure and holy life should look like as a follower of you. Help me to remember you and your word daily. Thank you, God! Amen.

Worship

THIS WEEK, CONSIDER LISTENING TO:

I Will Follow by Vertical Worship

My King Forever by Bethel Music

Firm Foundation (He Won't) by Cody Carnes

THE CHARGE

A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

Week 4, Day 2 - 2 Timothy 2:20-21

TEXT –

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. 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.

INTRODUCTION –

As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, one of our main duties is to spread the Gospel. When Jesus came to earth, he lived a perfect life, took on our sins and died the death we deserved. Then he beat death by resurrecting three days later! After all of this, he told his disciples that they were to go and make disciples of every nation, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:18). This is the same honor we earn as followers of Him today too. In 2 Tim 2:20-22, Paul uses a metaphor that reminds us that we must be ready to be used by God for Him to use us for the important things that He desires to use us for! If we are slacking off in our faith, or putting our relationship with God on the backburner, we won't be ready to be used by Him when the time comes. Instead, we are to be ready and prepared to be used so that we can experience the wonder and beauty of being worked in and through the creator of the universe. What an incredible opportunity each of us have! To be used by God is to be given the greatest gift of joy and fulfillment we could ever imagine. He loves us and He wants others to know that He loves them too. And we get to help Him do that together!

QUESTIONS:

Q1 - What's the biggest thing that distracts you from your commitment to following Jesus in word and deed?

Q2 - What tangible thing can you change this week to help remove that roadblock?

APPLICATION/ACTION -

Consider committing to regular prayer every day from now until the next time your youth group meets. In your prayer time, be open and willing to share freely with God. While God is an all-powerful being who rules over the entire world... He is also a friend to us. Both can be true! Speak to Him in a way that both honors and respects His majesty and allows you to think of him as a close friend. Then, after you've shared your thoughts and feelings with Him, invite Him to speak to *you*. "God, I'm listening. What do you want to share with me?" Be still and listen. You may hear more than you expect to.

PRAYER -

God, thank you for who you are. Thank you for ruling over everything and being a safe and trustworthy ruler. Thank you for caring for me more than any other human ever could. Help me to see you for all that you are this week – The all-powerful God, and my closest friend. Speak to me, I am listening. Help me to hear your voice without question. Thank you for working in my life, please give me eyes to see it more and more. Thank you, God, I love you. Amen.

Worship

THIS WEEK, CONSIDER LISTENING TO:

1,000 Names by Sean Curran / Passion

Maker of the Moon by Elle Limebear

Upper Room by Hillsong Worship

So Will I by Hillsong United