

Integrity in Ministry

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Introduction

- A. What are some biblical stories that have been made into movies?
- B. How are the lifestyles of the actors who play the biblical characters different from the actual biblical person?
- C. The flow of 2 Timothy goes like this:
 1. Timothy you need to nurture your spiritual gift to pass on the gospel to others (1:1-7)
 2. If you are going to pass on the gospel, you cannot be ashamed of it or of those who suffer for it (1:8-18)
 3. Passing on the gospel is going to be difficult, so don't quit (2:1-13)
 4. Now Paul says, effectively passing on the gospel requires integrity (2:14-26)
Paul tells Timothy there are two kinds of workers—the approved and the unapproved. He is telling Timothy how to be an approved worker.

I. **Be a faithful teacher (2:14-19)**

- A. When Paul says “remind them of these things,” what are “these things”?
2 Peter 1:12-13—“So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body.” (NIV)
- B. Timothy is to give the people a “charge” or “warning.” What is he to warn them about?
 1. 2:16—irreverent babble
 2. 2:23—foolish, ignorant controversies
 3. Titus 3:9-11—“But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.” (ESV)
 4. Why is this warning so important? Should we avoid all controversy? (see Galatians 2:11-14)
- C. The faithful teacher (the approved one) is to handle God's Word correctly (2:15)
 1. What does “rightly handling the word of truth” mean?
“Rightly handling” = to “cut straight” (reminds us of Proverbs 3:5-6 & 11:5)
Paul gives two examples of men who “swerved” rather than “cut straight” (17-18)
What were they teaching? How was it impacting people?
 2. Teaching with integrity means
 - a. Knowing the contents of God's truth
 - b. Communicating it accurately to others
 - c. Not confusing them with unimportant arguments
 - d. So with this plain explanation, they can follow the path to God

Conclusion/Application

1. Baptists believe in “individual soul liberty” which means that we believe everyone has the right/privilege of reading and interpreting the Bible, however, it does not mean that we can make the Bible say anything we want it to say. We have to follow the rules of interpretation.
2. Paul is addressing Timothy in his pastoral role, but since all Christians are teachers to some degree, we all need to carefully handle the Word of God so we can teach it accurately.

II. Be a clean vessel (2:20-22)

III. Be a kind servant (2:23-26)