

Integrity in Ministry (Part 2)

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Review

- A. The flow of 2 Timothy goes like this:
1. Timothy you need to nurture your spiritual gift in order 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)
Last week we looked at verses 14-19 in which Paul tells Timothy that integrity requires that he be a faithful teacher of the gospel. That involves faithfully reminding people of the truth, warning them not to get caught up in arguments that distract from the gospel, and being careful to teach the truth accurately.
- B. Paul continues his instructions on integrity using two more illustrations

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

- A. What two types of vessels does Paul mention in verse 20?
- B. Integrity requires pursuing a life of purity—sanctification
How is our involvement different in justification & sanctification?
Two sides of chasing this kind of life
1. “Flee”—the negative side
How would you define this?
Doesn't James 4:7 say we are supposed to stand against the devil and he will flee? So why is Paul telling us here to run from sin?
 2. “Pursue”—the positive side
How would you define the word *pursue*?
Paul uses 4 words in vs. 22 to define what we are supposed to pursue: righteousness, faith, love & peace

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

- A. Anyone who faithfully teaches the gospel and pursues a life of purity will have opposition.
- B. How does Paul characterize these opponents in verses 25-26?
- C. How is the person of integrity supposed to respond to them (24-25)?
- D. The results of the faithful teaching of a person of integrity are in God's hands.
Vs. 25—“...God may grant them repentance....”

Conclusion/Application

1. Christians are not perfect! However, they are instructed to live a life of purity and kindness if they are to be used of God. Are you aware of any area in your life where you are living hypocritically? Will you come to the Lord and ask His forgiveness and do whatever it takes to root that out of your life?
2. We need to pray for our pastors, that they will be men of integrity so the Lord can bless their

lives and their ministries.