



**CONTEND FOR THE
GOSPEL
KEEP THE FAITH**

A LIFE OF NOBLE PURPOSE



2 Timothy so Far...

- 2 Timothy Setting & Background
 - Written by Paul while awaiting execution in Roman prison (64-67 A.D.)
 - Paul's final letter before his death
- Theme & Message
 - Contend for the gospel, keep the faith and endure suffering
 - Intimate tone/personal letter
 - Warning to watch out for divisive people (quarrelers) and false teachers who want to lead people away from the truth



2 Timothy so Far...

- Ch1... Fan the flame, don't be ashamed, suffer for the gospel, keep sound teaching, guard the good deposit
- Ch2... Faithful to the Gospel
 - God's blueprint for the church & faith to be passed from one generation to the next
 - Warning to watch out for people who mishandle the Word of God (quarrelers and false teachers)

CONTEND FOR THE GOSPEL

KEEP THE FAITH

20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.

21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **23** Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

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²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.



Marks of a Life of Noble Purpose

1. Clay Pots for God's Glory
 - a. Cleansed and clean – repentant
 - b. Set apart
 - c. Available for God to use
 - d. Ready to act and fulfill God's purposes

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Marks of a Life of Noble Purpose

- 1. Clay Pots for God's Glory**
- 2. Life in the Flesh vs. Life in the Spirit**
 - Gal 5:13-18, 22-23**

2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26

A LIFE OF NOBLE PURPOSE



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Galatians 5:13-18, 22-23...

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26

A LIFE OF NOBLE PURPOSE



Galatians 5:13-18, 22-23...

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Marks of a Life of Noble Purpose

1. Clay Pots for God's Glory
2. Life in the Flesh vs. Life in the Spirit
 - Gal 5:13-18, 22-23
 - Folly/sinfulness vs righteousness
 - Unbelief vs Faith
 - Christ distinguished between doubt and unbelief. Doubt says, "I can't believe." Unbelief says, "I won't believe." Doubt is honest. Unbelief is defiant.
– Henry Drummond

Marks of a Life of Noble Purpose

1. Clay Pots for God's Glory
2. Life in the Flesh vs. Life in the Spirit
 - Gal 5:13-18, 22-23
 - Folly/sinfulness vs righteousness
 - Unbelief vs Faith
 - A person's faith can collapse over night if he has failed over the years to listen patiently to his doubts. – Tim Keller

Marks of a Life of Noble Purpose

1. Clay Pots for God's Glory
2. Life in the Flesh vs. Life in the Spirit
 - Gal 5:13-18, 22-23
 - Folly/sinfulness vs righteousness
 - Unbelief vs Faith
 - Selfishness/pride vs love
 - Rebellion/ready to fight vs peace

Marks of a Life of Noble Purpose

1. Clay Pots for God's Glory
2. Life in the Flesh vs. Life in the Spirit
3. Respect Those Who See Differently
 - Avoid foolish arguments
 - One issue wonders
 - False teachers
 - Kind, able to teach, not resentful, gentle
 - Restoration of those who have gone astray always the goal (not punishment)



CONTEND FOR THE GOSPEL

KEEP THE FAITH

How Can We Live Lives of Noble Purpose?

1. Identify the work of the gospel in your life
 - Repentant, set apart, useful, ready to act
 - We are but clay pots with a noble purpose and an incredible treasure within
 - 1 Cor 4:1-7...

2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26

A LIFE OF NOBLE PURPOSE



1 Corinthians 4:1-7...

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



1 Corinthians 4:1-7...

⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

How Can We Live Lives of Noble Purpose?

1. Identify the work of the gospel in your life
2. Keep your eyes on Jesus
 - Best way to explain “pursuing Christ”
 - When your eyes waiver, you start to sink
 - Peter walks on water... For a moment!
 - Our doubt and insecurity is magnified when our eyes drift from Jesus



How Can We Live Lives of Noble Purpose?

1. Identify the work of the gospel in your life
2. Keep your eyes on Jesus
3. Known by our Love
 - Firm but gentle... Striving to live a life of love but not compromising on the truth
 - Staying true to our core convictions and faithful to the call, but gently engaging those who disagree... staying away from quarrels
 - We need to be a people who hold firmly to the truth but are known for our love

