

**CONTEND FOR THE
GOSPEL
KEEP THE FAITH**

WORDS THAT DIVIDE



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
- 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



2 Timothy so Far...

- Theme & Message
 - Contend for the gospel, keep the faith and endure suffering
 - Powerful appeal from Paul who knows his time is almost finished
 - Paul is writing to a young Pastor whom he cares deeply for and is encouraging him to endure the hardships of ministry even as Paul did
 - Paul also is sending a warning to watch out for divisive people (quarrelers) and false teachers who want to lead people away from the truth



¹⁴ Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."



Paul's Warning to Timothy

1. Quarrelling about Words

- Watch out for the people who have “pet doctrines” or want to constantly engage in unconstructive debate
- 1 Peter 5:8-9



1 Peter 5:8-9...

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.



Paul's Warning to Timothy

1. Quarrelling about Words

- “Pet doctrines”, useless arguments, constant debates and disagreements, etc.
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- The Enemy has predictable patterns
 - a. Questioning God's integrity
 - did God really say that?
 - b. Questioning God's intentions
 - God must be holding out on you
 - c. Creating division
 - Quarrelling divides arguers – harms listeners

Paul's Warning to Timothy

- 1. Quarrelling about Words**
- 2. Correctly Handle the Word**
 - In directly contrast to those who's words are useless and destructive
 - No need to be ashamed (be bold!!!)
 - Correctly "handling" the Word of God is a massive responsibility... 1 Timothy 4:13-16



1 Timothy 4:13-16...

¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.



Paul's Warning to Timothy

- 1. Quarrelling about Words**
- 2. Correctly Handle the Word**
 - Directly contrasted to those who's words are useless and destructive
 - No need to be ashamed (be bold!!!)
 - Correctly "handling" the Word of God is a massive responsibility... 1 Timothy 4:13-16
 - God's approval is for the one using the word correctly not the foolish quarreler



Paul's Warning to Timothy

- 1. Quarrelling about Words**
- 2. Correctly Handle the Word**
- 3. Godless Chatter**
 - “irreverent babbling” – false teaching, mishandling the Word of God
 - Spreads like “gangrene”
 - Destroying the faith of some... (this is what's at stake when the word is misused)



Encouragement to Timothy

- No need to fear because of Firm Foundation
- The church will stand firm because it is built on Christ
- Church will continue from one generation to the next
 - a. God knows those who are his
 - emphasizing God's sovereignty
 - b. Those who are his turn from away from sin
 - Those who claim to belong to God must demonstrate this by turning away from sin



Paul's Warning & Encouragement to Us

- 1.** Watch out for divisive people and don't be those people!
- 2.** Be aware of the tactics our enemy uses to try and destroy us
- 3.** Do your best to handle the Word of God Correctly – not just for pastors and teaching, but in every way!
- 4.** Take courage – God will not give up on his church... he won't give up on you!

