

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW
2 TIMOTHY 2: 14 - 26

OPENING

- What is your favorite memory of your mother as you were growing up? Why do you remember that?
- Did your mom teach you a key lesson about life? How does that guide your choices today?

OBSERVATIONS FROM SUNDAY'S TEACHING

- Pastor Dave had two points about Resisting False Teachers. The first was to avoid fighting in front of others. Who is hurt when we fight publicly (v. 14)? Do you have an example of this?
- The second is to avoid godless chatter (v. 16). What does that mean? Are we guilty of this? In verse 17 Paul uses the term "gangrene" to describe this? What happens when someone gets gangrene? When should we accept people we disagree with? When should we resist? Is Paul too hard here?
- Verses 19 and 20 teach that "It is both God who preserves and us who persevere." What is the point of discussing more and less precious objects? Think of Jesus Christ's life? Who was He gentle with? Who was He harsh with? Why? If you were a "vessel for honor," what would your unique purpose be?
- The last verses, 22 – 26, teach about our personal responsibility. The first point is to pursue godly ambitions. Do you have any goals for your life? Are they godly?
- The next point is to live in community, "pursue righteousness... with those who call on the Lord." Paul constantly talks about living out our faith with other people. Why is that important?
- Finally, what is our first response to false teachers? Pastor Dave described it as "Don't fight but teach!" What steps does Paul give us to help with this sensitive situation? Have you ever done this? How did it work out? What could you have done to obtain a better result?

LOOKING THROUGH THE TEXT

- A good standard to evaluate Bible teachers is to emphasize what the Bible emphasizes. When people emphasize small, obscure texts and teach contrary to the major themes of the Bible, it is time to question their validity. There are some educated guesses about what the things Hymenaeus and Philetus, among others, were teaching. Verse 18 helps. Chapter 3 gives some hints and history gives some more. Think of some things that these men may have been teaching (v. 18). Can you think of a time when someone taught clearly against God's Word? Tell the group about it.
- What was the result of their teaching? The nicest description Paul uses is "useless" (v. 14). He also uses ruin, ashamed, worldly and empty chatter, ungodliness, gangrene, gone astray, and upset the faith. Does any of this help with "entrust to faithful men" (v.

2)? Their words were not harmless, they were destructive and divisive. We all teach others everyday either as teachers or as examples. How can you ensure that the things you teach will be approved by God (v. 15)? Does it matter?

LIVING IT OUT

- Verse 17 is a rough verse, “and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus.” We have, unfortunately, met people whose lives are characterized by verbal diarrhea. How much harm do they cause? How do we talk that could be described like this? Why do we do it? Should we stop?
- Verse 21 describes an opposite situation, “Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.” Contrast verses 17 and 21. What is different in a person’s life to lead them to behave one way or the other? How should you live so that you look more like verse 21?
- An old radio home improvement show would always talk about solutions as “good, better, best.” Paul is talking to Timothy about the best way to live. Think of a way life would be different if we lived this way. In verse 24 two phrases stand out. They do not require an advanced degree. Paul says to “be kind to all” and “(be) patient when wronged.” Is this an achievable goal? What steps does it require? Think of a time when someone else showed you patience or kindness.

PRAYER (consider breaking up into small groups of 3 or 4, either as couples, or as just men and just women)

- Pray for our church. Think about staff and Board Members that you know. Pray specifically for them, for love and wisdom, as they guide our church.
- Pray for mothers. Today we belittle people who do domestic tasks like caring for children, cleaning and cooking: tasks mothers often do. Thank God that we can all do this work and to honor everything about being a mother.