



Intro to 2 Timothy 2:20-26

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

It's providentially wonderful that many today have seen the TV show, *Downton Abbey*. In that show, set in early-20th century England, we see how a "great house" would have functioned in more recent history (v. 20). The wealthy, aristocratic family lives and works on the main floors, which are beautifully decorated and immaculately clean and well-kempt. The servants work in the lower regions of the house, where they do the laundry and prepare the meals and keep all the necessary supplies for general upkeep of the house. This is the image Paul draws on in this passage of 2 Timothy.

In the show, there is no moral distinction between the family and the servants and the show portrays the blurring of lines between upper and lower classes as they move further and further into modernity. But for Paul's purposes here, there is a distinction. The vessels of gold and silver are useful for God's good purposes in the world, the other are not. The exhortation is simple, then. We must seek to cleanse ourselves from dishonorable false teaching and methods of ministry and pursue methods that are pleasing to the Master.

Context

The last passage (2:14-19) sets up this passage quite well. The quotes from Numbers 16:5 and Isaiah 26:13 indicate the distinction between those leaders who lead under the will of God and those who seek to leadership apart from His will. It is the job of the leader to lead according to God's will as revealed in Scripture. It is the job of the people of God to discern which leader is leading in which way and follow accordingly. If we don't, then we will be considered among those who accumulate teachers according to our itching ears (4:3-4). If we do, then we will finish the race, and with Paul, receive the crown of righteousness (4:7-8).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26

“Serving God”

2 Tim. 2:20

Instruments

...we must be clean

...goal: useful to the Master

2 Tim. 2:23

Servants

...we must be kind

...goal: help others escape

Discuss

- 1) As Pastor Don noted, the “cleansing” of v. 21 applies not only to the content of false teachers, but also their methods. What does it look like to “cleanse ourselves” from false teaching and harmful methods in ministry?

- 2) How would you know whether or not you are prone to quarreling or fighting with other Christians over trivial things?

- 3) What would it look like to flee that desire? Or maybe encourage those around you to flee it?

- 4) Pastor Don referenced Matthew 11:28-30. How does Jesus exhibit gentleness and kindness? And how is that a model for us today?

- 5) How does knowing that 1) repentance is a gift of God and 2) that non-Christians are ensnared by the devil impact the way you view evangelism?