

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Remember, Be Diligent & Unashamed, Avoid, Don't Stray, We Are Sealed

Michael Silva / Aug 27, 2017

Opening: Joke about Remembering

- One of the themes in our passage today is on remembering...
- A couple were Christmas shopping.
- The shopping center was packed, and as the wife walked through the mall she was surprised when she looked around to find that her husband was nowhere to be seen.
- She was quite upset because they had a lot to do and she became so worried that she called him on her mobile phone to ask him where he was.
- In a quiet voice he said, "Do you remember the jewelers we went into about five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford, and I told you that I would get it for you one day?"
- The wife choked up and started to cry and said, "Yes, I do remember that shop."
- He replied, "Well, I'm in the sporting goods store next door it."

Transition/Intro:

1. We are continuing our study in 2 Timothy, the last letter Paul wrote before being put to death for his faith.
 - a) This letter is more intimate and personal than all Paul's other's letters.
2. Key Themes: **Faithfulness** despite suffering. **Holding fast** to the Scriptures. **Preaching** the Gospel. **Fulfilling** your ministry.
3. Our passage today could be summarized with these five points...

Remember	Be Diligent & Unashamed	Avoid
Don't stray	We are sealed	

Let's read our passage: 2 Timothy 2:14-19 (NKJV)ⁱ And Pray...

1. In last week's passage Paul emphasized five things: **being strong**, **teaching others**, **enduring** (hardship), **considering** (the perseverance of the Soldier/Athlete/Farmer), and **remembering** (Jesus Christ).
 - a) And he begins the next section by saying...

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2 Timothy 2:14

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

1. Remind others of the things he's already said.
 - a) Reminding others is a challenge for them to **Remember** personally.
 - i) We need to be reminded often of the basics.
 - ii) The basics, that's how Mayweather won the fight last night, by sticking to the basics, with perseverance.
 - iii) That's how we are to approach life, by sticking to the basics.
 - iv) Parents & teachers, don't be afraid to reemphasize the basics, they are important.
 - v) We need to remember to keep the Main Thing (Jesus) the main thing.
2. Moreover, remembering the Word of God is key to avoid being deceived.
 - a) John **MacArthur**, "It is only with a thorough knowledge of God's truth that falsehood and deceit can be recognized, resisted, and opposed."
 - i) Don't underestimate the power of God's Word!
 - b) **Romans 10:17** *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
3. Paul says charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit –
 - a) The phrase *before the Lord* reminds us that *God is with us*.
 - b) This should *encourage* us.
 - c) In **Matthew 1** we are reminded that the prophet called Jesus *Immanuel* – God With Us.
 - i) God is with you! If you are a believer, His Holy Spirit lives in you!
 - d) But it's also a measure of *accountability*, what we do is always *before the Lord*.
 - i) We may be able to *hide things* from others but we **cannot** hide anything from the Lord.
4. Ruin - καταστροφή (katastrophe /kat·as·trof·ay/) – Overthrow, destruction.
 - a) Earthly words and ways often leads to ruin.
 - b) Therefore, we need to remember God's Word and Ways, and remind others of it.

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2 Timothy 2:15 ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1. Be **Diligent & Unashamed**.
2. The word diligent means **Zealous Persistence**.
 - a) Anyone ever sat through a **Time Share** sales presentation?
 - i) That's zealous persistence! That's an example of being diligent.
 - ii) Is that diligence to God's Word present in your life?
 - iii) In what ways are you **digging deep** and **growing**?
3. The phrase **present yourself approved** means **favorably passing carefully scrutiny** and thereby being **counted worthy**.
 - a) Military inspections – prep your uniform, shave, haircut, clean your gear...
 - i) Aim: Please our Platoon Sergeants and Plt Commanders.
 - b) Our aim as Christians should be to **present yourself approved** to God, not man.
 - i) **Galatians 1:10** For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

(1) We live for an audience of One; God's opinion is the only one that matters.
4. The phrase **rightly dividing the word of truth** means to cut straight.
 - a) Not everyone cuts the Word of God straight.
 - b) We must read and apply the Word of God according to its original meaning and not try to give new meaning to the Word.
 - c) **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2 Timothy 2:16 ¹⁶ But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

1. The word **shun** could also be translated as **Avoid**.
 - a) Avoid **profane and idle babblings**.

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- i) Things that sound important, but aren't...
 - b) **1 Timothy 6:20** O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—
 - c) **Titus 3:9** But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.
2. We avoid these things because they will increase to more ungodliness.

2 Timothy 2:17-18 ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

- 1. The warning here to us... **Don't Stray**.
- 2. The message of those who have strayed spreads like Cancer or gangrene – Both spread rapidly and are deadly.
 - a) Sadly, lies often spread faster than truth.
 - b) What we believe and do affects others.
- 3. Paul calls out two people who have strayed. **Hymenaeus and Philetus**
 - a) This is the second-time Paul mentions **Hymenaeus** by name as being unfaithful. He's also mentioned in **1 Tim 1:20**.
 - b) Apparently both men were well known by those in Ephesus, or at least by Timothy.
 - c) Sadly, their destructive message had caused some to **overthrow the faith**.

2 Timothy 2:19 ¹⁹ Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

- 1. Despite the shaky words of false teachers, we have a **solid foundation** with God.
 - a) We find our stability in **solid foundation of God** [which] stands.
- 2. **We are also Sealed**.
 - a) Seals were placed on property and letters and they represent **ownership**.
 - b) We belong to Jesus!

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i) The Lord knows those who are His...

(1) **John 10:27–28** ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

c) Speaking of belonging to Jesus, **1 Corinthians 6:19–20** says, ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

i) That's why the second seal that Paul speaks of is Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

ii) Notice the wording, that statement is a seal upon believers.

(1) Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

d) My actions are consistent with God's actions.

i) God has chosen us knows us, and brings us into His presence.

ii) We also recognize that I belong to God so I depart from sin/iniquity to move away from worldly thing into His presence and the Light.

Conclusion: What's the big take away from this passage?

1. We are called to...

a) Remind others / Remember personally.

b) Be Diligent & Unashamed

c) Avoid [foolish, irreverent, worthless babblings]

d) Don't stray

e) We are sealed

Invitation: Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

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Benediction: 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

ⁱ All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson. Hebrew and Greek definitions, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, Copyright 1995 Woodside Bible Fellowship