

“A VESSEL FOR GOD’S USE”

II TIMOTHY 2:19-21

INTRODUCTION

TO MOTIVATE TIMOTHY TOWARD FAITHFUL SERVICE, PAUL USED AN ILLUSTRATION INVOLVING “VESSELS” OF VARYING QUALITIES AND VALUE,

PAUL SAID IN [II TIMOTHY 2:20], “*BUT IN A GREAT HOUSE THERE ARE NOT ONLY VESSELS OF GOLD AND SILVER, BUT ALSO OF WOOD AND OF EARTH; AND SOME TO HONOUR, AND SOME TO DISHONOUR.*”

IN [VERSE 21] HE TELLS US HOW ONE COULD BE A VESSEL OF HONOUR AND BE PREPARED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK AND BECOME A VESSEL FOR GOD’S USE.

“*IF A MAN THEREFORE PURGES HIMSELF FROM THESE, HE SHALL BE A VESSEL UNTO HONOUR, SANCTIFIED AND MEAT FOR THE MASTER’S USE, AND PREPARED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK.*”

NOT ONLY DOES PAUL WRITE THESE WORDS TO TIMOTHY, BUT HE ALSO WRITES THEM TO ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS.

PAUL SAID IN [I CORINTHIANS 3:11], “*FOR OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY THAN THAT IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.*”

HERE PAUL IS TELLING US WHO, NOT WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION.

NO CHURCH OR DENOMINATION IN AND OF ITSELF, CAN SERVE AS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE NO MATTER HOW ELOQUENT IT’S LITANY OR HOW BIBLICAL IT’S CREED. CHRIST JESUS IS OUR ONLY SURE FOUNDATION.

TO BUILD ONE’S SPIRITUAL LIFE ON ANYTHING OR ANYONE EXCEPT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS TO ASSURE SPIRITUAL DISASTER AND ETERNAL RUINS.

AS WE THINK ABOUT HOW WE CAN BE VESSELS FOR GOD'S USE, LET US KEEP IN MIND THAT WE MUST START FIRST WITH THE PROPER FOUNDATION. OUR LIFE MUST BE BUILT UPON THE "ROCK OF AGES."

IT INVOLVES EFFORT, BUT SUCH IS NECESSARY IF WE ARE GOING TO BE VESSELS FOR GOD'S USE.

I. TO BE VESSELS FOR GOD'S USE, WE MUST WORK ON OUR PERSONAL CONDUCT

A. THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU MUST AVOID.

- 1. WE MUST AVOID VESSELS OF DISHONOUR.**
- 2. WE MUST AVOID FALSE DOCTRINE.**
- 3. WE MUST FLEE YOUTHFUL LUSTS SUCH AS FORNICATION**
- 4. WE MUST FLEE THE LUST OF THE EYES SUCH AS MATERIALISM.**

B. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE MUST DO.

- 1. WE MUST PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, LOVE AND PEACE.**
- 2. THESE ARE QUALITIES WELL SUITED FOR THE "MAN OF GOD"**
- 3. WE MUST SEEK BOTH HOLY CONDUCT AND HOLY ASSOCIATIONS.**

II. TO BE VESSELS FOR GOD'S USE, WE MUST WORK ON INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

A. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE MUST AVOID.

- 1. WE MUST AVOID FOOLISH AND IGNORANT DISPUTES THAT GENERATE STRIFE AND BRING RUIN TO THE HEAVENS.**
- 2. WE MUST NOT QUARREL.**

3. **WE MUST NOT STRIVE OR FIGHT OVER WORDS**

B. **THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE MUST DO.**

1. WE MUST BE **GENTLE TO ALL**.
2. WE MUST BE **ABLE TO TEACH**.
3. WE MUST BE **PATIENT**.
4. WE MUST **CORRECT IN HUMILITY**.

III. **WE HAVE COME HERE TO DAY TO HONOUR A VESSEL FOR GOD'S USE.**

A. **HE IS NOT A FANCY VESSEL.**

1. A FANCY VESSEL IS **USELESS WITHOUT GOD**.
2. A FANCY VESSEL IS **FULL OF THEMSELVES**

B. **HE IS NOT AN EMPTY VESSEL.**

1. AN EMPTY VESSEL MAY LOOK GOOD BUT HAS **NO REAL SUBSTANCE**.

C. **HE IS NOT A BROKEN VESSEL.**

1. A **BROKEN** VESSEL IS **EMPTY**.
2. **NO ONE CARES** ABOUT A **BROKEN** VESSEL.
3. **GOD CAN'T USE A BROKEN VESSEL.**

D. **BUT HE IS A MOULDABLE VESSEL.**

1. ***“ARISE AND GO DOWN TO THE POTTER'S HOUSE, AND THERE I WILL CAUSE YOU TO HEAR MY WORDS.”[3] THEN I WENT DOWN TO THE POTTER'S HOUSE, AND THERE HE WAS, MAKING SOMETHING AT THE WHEEL.[4] AND THE VESSEL THAT HE MADE OF CLAY WAS MARRED IN THE HAND OF THE POTTER; SO***

***HE MADE IT AGAIN INTO ANOTHER VESSEL,
AS IT SEEMED GOOD TO THE POTTER TO
MAKE. [5] THEN THE WORD OF THE LORD
CAME TO ME, SAYING: [6] "O HOUSE OF
ISRAEL, CAN I NOT DO WITH YOU AS THIS
POTTER?" SAYS THE LORD. "LOOK, AS THE
CLAY IS IN THE POTTER'S HAND, SO ARE YOU
IN MY HAND, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL!"***

CONCLUSION

WHAT MAKES BISHOP A VESSEL FOR GOD'S USE?

- A. HE IS WILLING TO DO AS GOD SAYS**
- B. HE IS WILLING TO GO WHERE GOD SENDS.**
- C. HE IS WILLING TO GIVE *ALL* TO GOD.**