

Final Instructions
“Final Instructions About Quarreling”
2 Timothy 2:14-26 – November 5, 2006

Overview of Our 2 Timothy Study

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS: A 12-Week Study of Second Timothy			
Charge	Message Title	Text	Date
<i>The Charge to Guard the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions	1:1-2	Oct. 1
	Final Instructions About Passing on the Faith	1:3-7	Oct. 8
	Final Instructions About Suffering	1:8-18; 2:8-13	Oct. 15
Mike Haley	Final Instructions About Homosexuality (PG-13)	Testimony	Oct. 22
<i>The Charge to Suffer for the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions About Living a Wartime Lifestyle	2:1-7	Oct. 29
	Final Instructions About Quarreling	2:14-26	Nov. 5
	Final Instructions About Fleeing Lust	2:20-22	Nov. 12
<i>The Charge to Continue in the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions About The Last Days	3:1-9	Nov. 19
	Final Instructions About The Bible – Part 1	3:10-17	Nov. 26
<i>The Charge to Proclaim the Gospel</i>	Final Instructions About The Bible – Part 2	4:1-5	Dec. 3
	Final Instructions About Finishing Strong	4:6-8	Dec. 10
	Final Instructions About People	4:9-22	Dec. 17

Clift Notes Summary of 2 Timothy 2:14-26

<p>In order to be useful to the Master (in order to pursue noble purposes) we must...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> flee youthful _____ (next Sunday’s message) avoid _____ (today’s message).

What Are Quarrels? (2 Timothy 2:14-26)

- *logomacheo* = to wage a _____; to strive about words; to argue or quarrel about the meaning or use of words; to be disputatious on trifles
- Other descriptions of quarrels in this passage:
 - Godless chatter (v.16)
 - *kenophonia* = empty or vain talking; useless talking; empty sounding; fruitless discussion
 2. The result of foolish and stupid arguments (v.23)
 - *moros* = foolish, heedless, blockhead, absurd
 - *apaideutos* = uninstructed, uneducated, without training
 - *zetesis* = questioning, speculation
 3. Opposition to the Lord’s servant (v.25)
 - *antidiatithemia* = to oppose; to set oneself opposite; to be disputatious
- Kent Hughes’ test: Has this “talking” moved us closer to God and elevated our conversation and conduct?
- Example of a quarrel in Ephesus (vv.17-18). Paul had excommunicated Hymenaeus and Alexander back in 1 Timothy 1:20. Hymenaeus is now back with a new sidekick (Philetus) and is spreading new heresy.
- The source of quarrels = the devil (v.26)

- Application #1: What are things that you or others tend to quarrel about...
 - At home? _____
 - At work/school? _____
 - At church? _____

Why Avoid Quarrels? (2 Timothy 2:14-26)

- Because God** _____ (vv.14,16,23,24)
- Because quarrels have** _____ (v.14)
- Because quarrels** _____ **those who listen to them** (v.14)
 - *katastrophe* = overturn, demolition, apostasy, demoralizing
- Because quarrels cause you to become more and more** _____ (v.16)
- Because quarrels hurt the body of Christ like** _____ (v.17)
 - Gangrene is the medical term for death of tissue (necrosis) in part of the body. It is a serious condition that can spread very quickly (wet gangrene) and be fatal. This death of tissue is caused by a lack of blood flow which is caused by a serious bacterial infection. Symptoms include discoloration (black or blue), lack of feeling in that tissue, and a foul-smelling discharge. In the years before antibiotics, doctors would purposely put fly maggots on the area of gangrene. These maggots would eat away only the dead flesh – leaving the healthy, living tissue unaffected. Today, doctors treat gangrene with very strong antibiotics. If the gangrene persists, then the tissue must be amputated. Otherwise, the gangrene can spread and kill the patient.
 - Insights from this repulsive medical analogy:
 - Don’t quarrel! It’s gross! It kills parts of the body if not the whole body.
 - Quarrels attract maggots!
 - Quarrels let off a foul-smelling discharge!
 - Quarreling spreads negatively... quickly.
 - It is better to remove the quarreling parties from the body than to allow them to kill the whole body.
 - It is much, much better to not quarrel.
- Because quarrels are a** _____ **of the devil** (v.26)

Important Note: Don’t Confuse Quarreling with Other Biblically OK Forms of Communication (see messages Aug. 20, Sept. 17, 24, 2006)

- It is OK to be angry with someone as long as you resolve that anger before the sun goes down (Ephesians 4:26-27)
- It is OK to confront someone and to tell them how they have hurt you (Ephesians 4:15,25; Matthew 18:15-17)
- It is OK to confront someone concerning a sin in their life (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5)

How to Avoid and Deal With Quarrels (2 Timothy 2:14-26)

1. **Handle God's Word** _____ (vv.15,24b)

- *orthotomeo* = to make a straight cut; to rightly divide; to cut a straight road; to cut a road across country (that is forested or otherwise difficult to pass through) in a straight direction so that the traveler may go directly to his destination (we get our word "orthodoxy" from this word)
- John Stott: "The good workman is true to Scripture. He does not falsify it. Nor does he try to confuse people, like Elymas the sorcerer, by 'making crooked the straight paths of the Lord' (Acts 13:10). On the contrary, he handles the word with such scrupulous care that he both stays on the path himself, keeping to the highway and avoiding the byways, and makes it easy for others to follow."
- A negative example of someone who did not correctly handle (cut) God's Word is Hymenaeus and Philetus (vv.17-18)
- **Application #2** – Many of our quarrels could be avoided and/or solved if we would rightly handle God's Word in those relationships. Which of the following Scriptures do I need to ask for God's help in living in order to reduce quarreling in my life?
 - If people would treat each other the way they themselves want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).
 - If employers would treat employees with respect and if employees would submit to and obey their employers (Ephesians 6:5-9).
 - If parents would not exasperate their children and if children would obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-4).
 - If husbands and wives would mutually submit to one another. If husbands would sacrificially love their wives and wives would respectfully follow their husband's lead (Ephesians 5:21-33).
 - Other: _____

2. **Avoid** _____ (vv.16,23)

- **Application #3** – Lord, how have I participated in "godless chatter" recently? _____ Lord, I am sorry for my participation in godless chatter. I claim the cleansing of Your blood, Jesus, over this sin and thank You for Your forgiveness (1 John 1:9). I now ask You to fill me with Your Spirit and give me the power to not participate in any more godless chatter (Ephesians 5:18; John 8:11).

3. **Avoid** _____ **who engage in godless chatter and unbiblical teaching** (vv.17-20)

- The quotes in vv.19-20 are an allusion to Numbers 16 (esp. vv. 5,26) and the rebellion of Korah. We are to avoid godless chatter people/situations the same way that the Israelites were warned to step away from the tents of Korah.
- **1 Corinthians 15:33** – *Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

- **Application #4** - The people or situations that I need to avoid in order to stay away from the "tents" of godless chatter are _____. (Please temper this application with healthy communication, authenticity, healthy confrontation, and forgiveness as described in messages on Aug. 20, Sept. 17, 24, 2006).
- **Titus 3:10-11** - *Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. 11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*

4. **Be** _____ **to everyone** (v.24a)

- *epios* = kind, gentle; the attitude of a mother taking care of her little child (1 Thess. 2:7)
- Treat those you tend to quarrel with the same way you would treat your own infant child: It's hard to listen to them cry, but you love them deeply, and you seek to gently and kindly help them.
- **Application #5** - A step of kindness that I believe God wants me to take toward someone who has been quarrelsome towards me is _____.

5. **Forgive – do not become** _____ (v.24c)

- See message on forgiving others from Sept. 24, 2006.
- **Application #6** - Someone whom I have become resentful toward whom I need to forgive is _____. Lord, I forgive _____ for _____.

6. _____ **instruct others in the truth** (vv.24-26)

- These verses have in mind the kind of quarreling associated with heresy (i.e. Hymenaeus' and Philetus' teaching that the resurrection has already happened). The evil and error in which they are involved are "the trap of the devil" from which they need to be rescued.
- Our part in the rescue = gently instruct
- God's part = grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth
- Their part in the rescue = come to their senses and escape
- **Application #7** - How can I "gently instruct" someone in my life who is involved in false teaching and/or a trap of the devil? (*prautes* = a gentleness portrayed by humbleness, courtesy, considerateness, meekness)
 - Humbleness – I can serve them by _____
 - Courtesy – I can show them hospitality by _____
 - Considerateness – I can seek to understand their world by _____
 - Meekness – I can confess my shortcomings and struggles by _____
 - Instruct – A piece of truth I can share when the timing is right is _____

Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. What do you tend to quarrel about the most?
2. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26 aloud.
3. Discuss the whats, why nots, and how nots of quarreling using Scripture to support what you are sharing. What were your applications in each of these?

If interested in being in "Someone I Love is Gay" (SILIG) small group that starts in January, drop an email to jim@whatisgrace.org