

Becoming Useful to the Master

2 Timothy 2:14–26

Main Idea:

Christ measures our usefulness by whether we turn away from what makes us unfit for his service, handle his word faithfully, and serve others with patience, truth, and gentleness.

I. Reject words that are useful for nothing (2:14–18)

- A. Avoid arguments that ruin hearers and increase ungodliness.
- B. Present yourself to God as an approved, unashamed worker.
- C. Handle the word of truth faithfully in both content and manner.
Words are useful to Christ only when they serve the truth and strengthen those who hear them.

II. Rest in the God who preserves his people (2:19)

- A. False teaching may overturn the faith of some, but God's firm foundation stands.
- B. "The Lord knows those who are his."
- C. God preserves both his church and each believer who belongs to him.
- D. Because we belong to the Lord, we must depart from unrighteousness.

We can pursue faithfulness with confidence because Christ has not lost control of his church or forgotten anyone who belongs to him.

III. Become ready for the Master's use (2:20–23)

- A. Cleanse yourself from what dishonors Christ.
 - B. Flee youthful passions.
 - C. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with God's people.
 - D. Refuse foolish controversies that produce quarrels.
- Usefulness to Christ is not measured by visibility or talent, but by holiness, readiness, faithfulness, and mature Christian character.*

IV. Serve others in the manner of the Master (2:24–26)

The Lord's servant must:

- A. not be quarrelsome,
- B. be kind and able to teach,
- C. endure mistreatment patiently,
- D. correct opponents with gentleness,
- E. trust God to grant repentance and restore those trapped in error.

A useful servant speaks the truth in a way that seeks the spiritual good and restoration of others.

Final Question

Am I becoming useful to the Master—faithful with his word, ready for every good work, and patient and gentle toward those he has called me to serve?