

## *“An Honorable Vessel”*

(II Timothy 2:20-26)

### Introduction:

*20) But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 22) Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23) But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. 24) And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25) in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26) and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*

### Verse 20 - Illustration

*“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.”*

- *“Large House”* – entire church, the body of Christ
- *“Vessels”* – individual believers: gold/silver vs. wood/earthenware; domestic implements, utensils, tool, and furnishings

Verses 21-26 here in chapter 2 of II Timothy describes 9 characteristics that mark the faithful, godly believers who are the true vessels of honor. That vessel will be characterized by...

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Having a Cleansed Life     | 6) Having a Discerning Mind        |
| 2) Having a Sanctified Life   | 7) Having a Gentle Manner          |
| 3) Having a Useful Life       | 8) Having a Humble Spirit          |
| 4) Being prepared for service | 9) Having a Compassionate Attitude |
| 5) Having a pure heart        |                                    |

1) VERSE 21a - Having a Cleansed Life -

*“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter”*

*He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed. (Proverbs 13:20; NKJV)*

*“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” (NKJV)*

*“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” (NIV)*

*“Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” (NASB)*

*“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (KJV)*

*(I Corinthians 15:33)*

2) VERSE 21b - Having a Sanctified Life -

*“... he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified,...”*

3) VERSE 21c - Having a Useful Life -

*“... and useful for the Master,”*

*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? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (I Corinthians 6:19-20; NKJV)*

4) VERSE 21d - “Being Prepared for Service” -

*“... prepared for every good work.”*

5) VERSE 22 - Having a Pure Heart

*Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

The Psalmist put it this way...

*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. (Psalm 119:9)*

6) VERSE 23 - Having a Discerning Mind -

*"But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."*

*"... that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting..." Ephesians 4:14; NKJV) (Also in I Timothy 6:3-5)*

*"A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart." (Proverbs 18:2)*

*"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." (Philippians 4:8)*

*"In the essentials, unity. In the non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity"*

7) VERSE 24 - Having a Gently Manner -

*"And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,..."*

8) VERSE 25a - Having a Humble Spirit -

*“... in humility correcting those who are in opposition,...”*

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”  
(Ephesians 2:5-8: NKJV)*

9) VERSE 25b - 26 - Having a Compassionate Attitude -

*“... if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26) and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”*

*Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (I Timothy 4:2; KJV)*