



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

KIND...PATIENT...CORRECTING! - 2 TIMOTHY 2:24-26

COLORADO

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*Timothy was to **flee** as fast as his feet would carry him **away** from the headstrong desires of youth, impatience, harshness, contentiousness, and thinking he was always right. At the same time he was to **pursue**, run, sprint toward with arms stretched out **after** righteous conduct, faith and trust, love for others and peace.¹ Is this the kind of life you are engaged in?*

I. KIND...PATIENT...CORRECTING! - 2 TIMOTHY 2:24-26

2 Timothy 2:24-26: (24) “And the Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, (25) with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

A. “MUST NOT BE QUARRELSOME”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:24A

Paul reminds Timothy that he is the Lord’s bondservant, a slave having no will of his own except to do that of his Master’s. Because of this truth, Paul exhorts Timothy with what God requires of those who are entrusted with the gospel; being willing to utterly sacrifice themselves for the good of others and the glory of God. Therefore, he reminds Timothy once again that he “*must not*” quarrel about “*foolish speculations*” when they have no basis in the truth of God’s Word. They are man’s ideas about God that are not grounded in the truths of Scripture. They are controversial and often result only in strife, misunderstandings and confusion. Then Paul emphasizes a better way, “*but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged.*”

B. “BE KIND”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:24B

As much as we are to speak boldly for the Lord without compromise, we must make sure to do so with an attitude of meekness, gentleness and humility, never harsh or abusive, overbearing, unkind or thoughtless.² Paul calls believers to be gentle in our manner to all; whether friends or opponents. Jesus Himself is “*gentle and humble in heart.*” (Matthew 11:29) We must be able to hold God’s standard and guard the treasure, yet with kindness, especially if we must point out a concern.

C. “ABLE TO TEACH”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:24C

Secondly Paul says that we must be “*able to teach*”. We must be able to communicate effectively the truths in Scripture to others. This refers to not just the ability but also the willingness to teach. The only other time this Greek word is used in the New Testament is in 1 Timothy 3:2 referring to the responsibility of elders to teach. We must be able to teach what is true doctrine to those who are misinformed or don’t

understand. We must be kind and willing to instruct others in the truth, but never quarrelsome. That will require preparation and courage with the motivation and readiness to go to our brother or sister. To do so, we must be clear on the Biblical truths first, then willing to go in the right attitude.

D. “PATIENT WHEN WRONGED”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:24D

Paul says that we must be able to hold up under evil treatment. This means as believers we cannot take offense when treated poorly, we must not be resentful or touchy but respond with a forbearing spirit. William Barclay makes this comment, “*If criticized, we can’t respond with similar criticism, must be able to accept insult and injuries, slights and humiliations as Jesus accepted them. There may be greater sins than touchiness, but there is none which does greater damage in the Christian church.*”³

Let’s be honest, this is so hard. We are more offended when we are wronged than when Christ and His truths are attacked. It is not easy to accept unjust criticism. Peter wrote this about Jesus in 1 Peter 2:21-23, “*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.*” Often we will be quick to take offense and slow to forgive. But we are called to not be touchy, to have a forbearing spirit. We are called to be patient and that is possible as the Holy Spirit brings about fruit in our lives and we submit to God’s Word.

E. “WITH GENTLENESS”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:25A

Paul calls on Timothy and all believers to carry out this work of instruction with gentleness, meekness not weakness.

“**gentleness**” Greek “**prautes**” used of colts broken for riding. Great care must be taken in training to bring animals into submission to the rider without breaking its’ energetic, lively spirit. Power under willing control.

This requires a tolerance in spirit without a weakness in orthodoxy and doctrine. There is no place for judgmental or self-righteous attitudes.⁴ We are to carry out such instruction with meekness, a humble spirit under the willing control of the Holy Spirit and submitted to God’s Word.

F. “CORRECTING OPPOSITION”-2 TIMOTHY 2:25B

There must be a meekness and compassion when “*correcting those in opposition.*” The word “*correcting*” refers to instruct,

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educate or give guidance. Since this instruction is in the form of correction, we must be careful to never do it with an attitude of superiority, but rather compassion for them just as the Lord would.⁵ "Opposition" does not refer to a difference of opinion rather those who believe wrongly in relation to the truth found in God's Word, those who are deceived by false teaching as well as those who are deceiving. We must admonish "those in opposition" with meekness and compassion, speaking the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)

G. "REPENTANCE"-2 TIMOTHY 2:25B

All true repentance is a work of God in the heart. The purpose of kindness and gentleness in teaching and correcting would be that those who have set themselves in opposition to the truth would hopefully be led to a right understanding of God's Word resulting in repentance; a change of mind and a change of direction.

"repentance" Greek "metanoia" a genuine change of mind, change of heart that leads to a change of direction.

God is not in any way hesitant to bring about repentance in one's heart... "if perhaps God may grant them repentance." We are the ones who refuse to accept the need for that repentance when we don't see how we are in opposition to God's truth. Our motivation in correcting with gentleness would be that God would awaken repentance and the desire for truth in hearts.

H. "LEADING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH" - 2 TIMOTHY 2:25C

Repentance leads believers out of their sin and falsehood and into a "knowledge of the truth". The word for knowledge doesn't refer to just factual information, but rather it is a deep spiritual understanding of God's truth. God is the One Who gives this kind of knowledge and understanding that we all must seek. Only God's Word will bring clarity and truth to foolish speculations and we must know Scripture and submit to it.

I. "COME TO THEIR SENSES"- 2 TIMOTHY 2:26A

The best that could happen is that "they may come to their senses."

"senses" Greek "ananepho" return to clear, sound insight. Return to soberness.

The hopeful result would be a return to sober thinking about what is true. Falsehood and sin can produce like a spiritual inebriation, a stupor resulting in a loss of judgment and proper control of one's mental faculties. The destructive effect of

false teaching and sin is that it numbs our conscience, confuses our mind, erodes conviction and paralyzes the will.⁶

J. "ESCAPE THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL"- 2 TIMOTHY 2:26B

Satan is working behind the scenes to manipulate, scheme and seduce hearts and minds of men and women. (Ephesians 6:12) Deception is always Satan's trap. That's why it is so important that leaders in the church can and will stand firm on the Word of truth and gently correct those who are held captive to the devil's will. From the very beginning of time, Satan has been clever in his lies to "snare" and trap with subtle deception. We must return to soberness and true understanding which enables a believer to escape the devil's snare. The best antidote for false teaching and sound thinking is 2 Timothy 2:15, "handling accurately the word of truth." Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:3, "But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." This is a call to return to sober, sound judgment.

K. "HELD CAPTIVE TO DO HIS WILL"- 2 TIMOTHY 2:26C

Another way this verse could read is "having been captured alive for the will of that one." A believer can be held captive by Satan to do his will. This is how a vessel of honor becomes a vessel of dishonor and a pawn of Satan to work his evil will within the body of the church through lies and deception. We must always remember that the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation if we turn to Him. (2 Peter 2:9) God is faithful and will not allow us to be tested beyond what we are able. (1 Corinthians 10:13) And if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us. (1 John 1:9)

What does God require of those who are entrusted with teaching and guarding the truth? We must possess tenacity without meanness, firmness without harshness and the ability to both articulately speak and wisely remain silent.⁷ 2 Timothy 2 offers divine wisdom for all noble servants of Jesus Christ.

¹Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 219.

²MacArthur, John Jr., *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.98.

³Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.203-204.

⁴Lea, Thomas D., Griffin, Jr., Hayne P., *The New American Commentary Volume 34: 1, 2 Timothy, Titus*. B&H Publishing Group: Nashville, TN, 1992. Pg. 221.

⁵MacArthur, John Jr., *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.100.

⁶MacArthur, John Jr., *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.102.

⁷Dever, Mark, *The Message of the New Testament; Promises Kept*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2005. Pg. 367.