

January 4 – 10

2 Timothy 2:14–26 | Well Done

Icebreaker: *Who do you know that holds themselves with honor? Why?*

Read 2 Timothy 2:14–19 | Rightly handle God's Word

- In verses 14–16, what specific behaviors or kinds of speech does Paul warn Timothy to avoid? What results do these behaviors produce?
- What does Paul mean by "rightly handling the word of truth" in verse 15? Why does Paul connect careful handling of truth with being "unashamed"?
- Paul uses the image of teaching that "spreads like gangrene" (v.17). What does this metaphor reveal about the nature and danger of false or careless teaching?
- According to verses 17–18, what exactly had Hymenaeus and Philetus taught incorrectly, and how did their teaching affect others?
- In verse 19, Paul speaks of God's firm foundation with two inscriptions. How do these statements hold together God's sovereignty and human responsibility?

Read 2 Timothy 2:20–23 | Honor and Usefulness

- In verses 20–21, what kinds of vessels does Paul describe, and what distinguishes honorable from dishonorable ones?
- What does it mean for a believer to "cleanse himself" in this context? What does cleansing lead to according to the passage?
- Verse 22 gives both negative and positive commands. What are believers told to flee, and what are they told to pursue?
- Why do you think Paul connects foolish controversies (v.23) with quarrels rather than spiritual growth?

Read 2 Timothy 2:24–26 | Participating with God's Work

- According to verses 24–25, what qualities should characterize the Lord's servant when dealing with opponents?
- How does Paul describe the goal of gentle correction? What role does God play in repentance and coming to the knowledge of the truth?
- What does verse 26 reveal about the spiritual condition of those who oppose the truth and the hope for their restoration?

Application

- Where are you most tempted to engage in unhelpful arguments, speculation, or quarrels? What would it look like to apply Paul's counsel in those situations?
- What habits, attitudes, or influences might be affecting your usefulness to God? What would "cleansing" look like practically in your life?
- How can you grow in speaking truth with both conviction and gentleness, especially with people who disagree with or resist the gospel?