

“THE GENTLE SHEPHERD”

II TIMOTHY 2:22-26

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INTRODUCTION

“It’s my way or the highway.” “Spiritual abuse” by pastors. Dictatorships—either by pastors or deacons. On the other hand, many church members who are insubordinate—unteachable. Many teachers who are insubordinate to the truth of the Gospel; insist on teaching their own versions of the word of God.

Preacher, you must flee youthful lusts and pursue integrity, love, faith, peace, while rejecting unsound doctrine and foolish teachings. Yet, you must do so with godly gentleness and humility.

YOU MUST BE CONCERNED TO WIN PEOPLE, NOT ARGUMENTS.

Christian church member and one who fellowships with the church, you must not stubbornly resist training and instruction; you must yield to the Holy Spirit as He guides the preacher/teacher, repent of your false ideas taking you away from truth and godliness, come to your senses from your “drunken state,” and be freed from Satanic captivity.

YOU MUST SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD AND TO HIS WORD.

Now, first I must clear up a misunderstanding of this passage; it does not contradict what we preached 2 weeks ago!

I. THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MINISTER

A. Be Fleeing and Be Pursuing (22)

1. Flee Youthful lusts

- “Youthful”—especially connected with younger people; maturity often tempers such temptations.
- “Lusts”—generally, yet specifically those kind hindering his actions below. Cf. I Jn. 2:16 with Mt. 4:1-11.
- All “lusts are youthful lusts; older people must not be adopting and practicing such lusts—but they regularly do!

2. Pursue Godly Fruit

- a. Righteousness--integrity
- b. Faith—trust and faithfulness
- c. Love—sacrificial love toward others, family and fellow believers
- d. Peace—living harmoniously with others due to peace with God and the peace of God
 - With Those who “call on the Lord—in prayer and praise and thanksgiving
 - Those with a “pure heart”—cleansed

B. Be Rejecting and Avoiding Controversial Questions and Speculations (23)

1. What they are

- a. Foolish—moronic
- b. Ignorant—uneducated, untrained, undisciplined (cf. v 25)

2. What they produce—Quarrels and fights

II. THE TEACHING OF THE MINISTER (24-25a)

- A. What it must not be—Quarrelsome, causing or encouraging fights (24—25a)
- B. What it ought to be
 - 1. Outwardly kind and gentle—cf. I Thes. 2:7 (only other use of the word)
 - 2. Able to teach with good results (cf. I Tim. 3:2)
 - 3. Patient when treated badly—one word, only here
 - 4. Giving education, training, correction, discipline (25a)
 - a. With gentle humility—inward quality, cf. v. 24
 - b. Able to face and deal with those who have “set themselves firmly against” good teaching.

III. THE GOALS FOR THE LISTENERS (25b-26)

“If perhaps”—not certain; depends on the level of the hardening, and openness to divine influence of the truth.

- A. “God may grant repentance”—cf. Acts 5:31; 11:18.
 - Repentance is a gift of God. Salvation is of God!
 - That does not remove man’s responsibility—he must repent; it is always a command.
 - Along with the Gospel comes the Holy Spirit who enables the sinner/believer to turn and repent—a change of mind and heart.
 - In this case repentance bring acknowledgment of the Truth. (cf. I Tim. 2:4)
 - The “sinner” admits that he has been wrong and the correct teaching of the Word by the man of God is right.
- B. The false teacher/taught person may **get sobered up** from his **drunken state** (26).
 - His mind has been in a stupor.
 - His Senses have been confused.
 - His Conscience has been numbed.
 - His will has been paralyzed.
- C. They may escape from the devil’s snare (26b).
 - 1. Having been held captive by him.
 - 2. Having been doing the devil’s will
 - Some interpret: Captive by him (devil) in order to do His (God’s) will.
 - Others interpret: Captive by him (Lord’s servant—24) in order to do His (God’s) will.

CONCLUSION

Flee youthful lusts.

Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace—all of God’s true people together, those who Worship Him from a pure heart.

Refuse foolish and ignorant speculations.

Man of God: **YOU MUST BE CONCERNED TO WIN PEOPLE, NOT ARGUMENTS.**

Church Member: **YOU MUST SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD AND TO HIS WORD**

If you have been going your own way, repent and accept God’s truth.

Get sober and escape from the devil’s trap: he loves to captivate people in order to get them to do his will.

There are many liars and deceivers; many people have been lied to and deceived.

“Let God be true, though every man be a liar.”