

## An Honorable Vessel (Converting Opponents)

2 Timothy 2:25b-26 (Series: Declaring the Gospel)

On February 17, 2024, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

- I. Encouraging Timothy to gospel fidelity (1:1-18)
- II. Encouragement to stick with it and suffer for the gospel (2:1-26)
  - A. Be strengthened (v. 1-7)
  - B. Things to consider (v. 8-13)
  - C. Things to teach and address in the church (v. 14-19)  
Partly in response to Gnosticism
  - D. Becoming an honorable vessel in the church (v. 20-26)
    1. Honorable vs. dishonorable vessels (v. 20-21)
    2. Maintaining an “honorable” status (c. 22-23)
    3. Being the Lord’s [“Master’s”] useful servant (v. 24)
      - a. Don’t be quarrelsome
      - b. Do be active in essential pastoral activities.
        - 1.) Be kind
        - 2.) Be able to teach
        - 3.) Patiently endure evil
        - 4.) Correct opponents with gentleness
    4. God’s work in \_\_\_\_\_ through the useful servant (v. 25-26)
      - a. Granting \_\_\_\_\_ leading to \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth (v. 25)
      - b. \_\_\_\_\_ of repentance (v. 26)
        - 1.) “Come to their \_\_\_\_\_”
        - 2.) “Escape” the devil’s “\_\_\_\_\_.” (v. 26a) (cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15)
          - i. Until then we are “\_\_\_\_\_” in Satan’s “snare.”
          - ii. Until then we default to doing \_\_\_\_\_ will.

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      - a. Don’t be quarrelsome
      - b. Do be active in essential pastoral activities.
        - 1.) Be kind
        - 2.) Be able to teach
        - 3.) Patiently endure evil
        - 4.) Correct opponents with gentleness
    4. God’s work in **opponents** through the useful servant (v. 25-26)
      - a. Granting **repentance** leading to **knowledge** of the truth (v. 25)
      - b. **Results** of repentance (v. 26)
        - 1.) “Come to their **senses**”
        - 2.) “Escape” the devil’s “**snare**.” (v. 26a) (cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15)
          - i. Until then we are “**captured**” in Satan’s “snare.”
          - ii. Until then we default to doing **Satan’s** will.

**Pastor’s Note:** As we zoom in on the last sentences of Paul’s description of the “Honorable Servant (Rescuing Opponents),” we find a challenging, yet freeing concept about how God works through His servants to change hearts of those who have opposed His work.