

2 Timothy

Week 6
2 Tim 2:14-19

General:

- Pastor Chip started the sermon with this quote: "The Biblical teaching we receive will make us or break us." (Reflective question)
- Paul urges Timothy to "charge them not to quarrel about words". Why do you think this was such a high priority for Paul?
- What kinds of topics or issues do we find ourselves arguing over in Christian circles today? What are the typical outcomes of those conversations? Do they help or hinder spiritual growth?
- Verse 15 calls us to present ourselves as approved workers who don't get distracted. What are some things that distract you from "keeping the main thing the main thing" in your walk with Christ?
- v16-17a: "avoid irrelevant babble" leads to ungodliness. This is true for everyone but especially for Leaders/teachers of the church. (Question here)
- What are some modern examples of "irreverent babble" in today's church or culture?
- How do we stay aware of false teaching without becoming cynical or paranoid?
- What's the balance between confronting someone and trusting God to deal with them?

Take Home 1: Healthy teaching leads to healthy lives whereas unhealthy teaching leads to unhealthy lives (2 Tim. 2:17)

- How has healthy biblical teaching shaped your life? What's an example of how you've grown through it?
- Pastor Chip used the example of how "speaking the truth in love" is about correcting believers, not confronting non-believers. When have you used this phrase out of context or seen others do so?
- Pastor Chip listed several examples of what healthy churches should teach (i.e, conformity to Christ over personal happiness, loving enemies and praying for those that do us wrong, the fruit of the spirit not being optional, etc.). What do you think makes teaching or preaching "healthy"? What are the signs of that?

Take Home 2: We need to take seriously the charge about "quarreling over words" (2 Tim. 2:14)

- Why do you think Paul is so strong about avoiding these kinds of debates?
- Pastor Chip said, "Many are being discipled by political media rather than Scripture." How much does political media or other secular outlets impact how you feel or behave on a daily basis?
- Read 2 Tim. 2:24-25a. Which of Paul's instructions (kindness, gentleness, patience, etc.) is most difficult for you when engaging with others in disagreement?
- Are there times when you've elevated secondary issues (orthodoxy/orthopraxy) above the core message of Jesus and the gospel?
- How can we remain unified as a church even when we differ on theological or practical views

Take Home 3: False teaching may spread in the church, but it cannot wreck the foundation (2 Tim. 2:18-19a)

- What does it mean to you that God's foundation stands in seasons where things feel shaky?
- When you see division or false teaching in the church, what is your default response? (Fear? Frustration? Disengagement? Something else?)
- How can you be encouraged by truth when you feel overwhelmed by what's happening in the world? In the church?