

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." - 2 Timothy 2:19

LOST & FOUND

I. A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST

- Soldiers do not get entangled in extraneous efforts. They live to serve their commander. They share in trials and suffering (2 Tim. 2:3).
- Gospel warriors do not get distracted by a war of words.
- We live so that one day we may be presented before God. What we do now echoes in eternity. Our goal is to:
 1. Present ourselves as one approved.
 2. Be workers who need not be ashamed.
 3. Be those who handle the word of God properly.
- "Irreverent babble" here describes arguments that do more harm than good, and often lead to false teaching (cf. 1 Tim. 1:3-4, 4:7, 6:20; 2 Peter 1:16-19, 2:1-22).

II. KINGDOM FOUNDATIONS

- Christ's church is the pillar and buttress of the truth in our world (1 Tim. 3:14-15).
- "Paul's gospel" was clear and succinct. So were the early confessions of the faith (Rom. 11:33-35; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:5; Col. 1:15-17, 3:1-4; 1 Tim. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:8; 1 John 4:2-3).
- The seal on the foundation of God's kingdom reads: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

KNOW: God's people (elders and leaders in particular) must be able to handle the word of God accurately in order to safeguard the flock of Christ. Debating words and obscure ideas is nonsensical, but a solid foundation is mandatory. God has given us that foundation in Christ and his gospel.

DO: Guard your faith in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Suggested Reading:

Sound Doctrine: How a Church Grows in the Love and Holiness of God

by Bobby Jamieson

(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

Know What You Believe by Paul Little

(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

Tell Me About God by Susan Harding

(Available in the LifePoint Children's Library)

Next Week's Preaching Text: Isaiah 11:1-5

**Questions/Discovery Points
for Life Groups/Families**

Please read 2 Timothy 2:14-19.

1. What does Paul want Timothy to share with the church in Ephesus?
2. What is Paul's main concern, do you think?
3. What value is there in disputes about words (i.e. secondary matters to the faith)?
4. How do we rightly handle God's word? What steps do we need to take? How does this apply to leaders of God's flock?
5. What is the firm foundation of God? What do those two statements mean?
6. How do we keep "the main thing the main thing" at LifePoint?
7. What application points do you see for yourself in this passage?