

A WORD TO THE WISE

II Timothy 2:14-18

January 17, 2021

The Bible must be considered as the great source of all the truth by which men are to be guided in government as well as in all social transactions. – Noah Webster

Introduction:

- Consider God's gift of _____ to humanity
 - God gave us an _____ language to match his orderly creation (Isaiah 45:12)
 - God created language for humans to _____ with him and with each other
 - Since we are created in His image, we can use understand _____ that binds numerous languages together to not be constrained by numerous languages.
- Genesis 1:3 ("Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.") This simple sentence reveals to us the 3 main aspects of communication.
 - We have the _____ who speaks →
 - We have the _____ that are spoken →
 - We have the _____ of the words →

"The Word" Across Scripture:

- I. List of purposes of "The Word" in Scripture
 - a. Store up the Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11)
 - b. Guided by the Word (Psalm 119:105)
 - c. Live on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4)
 - d. Doer of the Word (James 1:22)
 - e. Preach the Word (2 Timothy 4:2)
 - f. Submit to the Word (Romans 8:7)
 - g. Meditate on the Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2)
 - h. Jesus is the Living Word that became flesh...the Logos (John 1:1-3, 14)

Worldly Words vs. God's Word:

THE COMMAND ITSELF – (14) "Remind them...exhort them"

- I. Help them to remember. Urge them along in that instruction. Keep them in line the way a shepherd would call out to and guide his flock along.
- II. But this is to be done with a solemnness in the presence of God.

THE CONTENT OF THE COMMAND – (14) "not to dispute about words"

- I. Means to contend about; to wrangle about; or to quarrel about words. What words? **FALSE TEACHING!**
- II. This command to not dispute about words is _____ in the statement that doing otherwise leads is useless and leads to ruin of those listening.

- i. Useless is a quantitative term meaning none, nothing, never.
- ii. And what happens to those who hear our disputing and wrangling about these words? Scripture says it leads to their _____. Ouch, Paul!
 1. Literally is referring to overthrow and destruction
 2. We get the English word **catastrophe** from this Greek word. Picture is of soil being turned over and under as a plow runs through it. It is broken apart and tossed into upheaval.

THE AFFIRMED POSITIVE ASPECT OF THE COMMAND – (15) “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God”

- I. In contrast to the one who disputes about words, here is the “workman.” This is the individual whose life and work is _____. toward God.
 - i. This orientation involves two key components
 1. It involves an _____ decision (be diligent) and a _____ decision (present yourself).
- II. Paul then **compares** this individual presenting himself before God to a worker who has no need to be ashamed. Why no shame...because he/she _____ handles the word of truth.
 - i. We as believers are to accurately _____, appropriately _____, and correctly _____ the Scriptures.

THE DENIED NEGATIVE ASPECT OF THE COMMAND – (16) “But avoid worldly and empty chatter”

- I. Here Paul repeats himself from vs 14 when he spoke of “not disputing about words.” Again, he drives home to Timothy that those in his church must not fall prey to worldly and empty chatter.
 - i. We’ve already seen that it is useless and ruins those who hear it, but this time Paul grounds it in saying that this type of talk leads to personal _____ and then spreads. Contrast the deadly spread of false teaching vs. the health-producing gospel (2 Timothy 1:10)

A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE IN PAUL’S PERSONAL NETWORK – (17-18) “Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus”

- I. Look at their personal choices (gone _____) and how it has affected those around them (jeopardizing their _____).

Conclusion:

1. Pray that the language that is on our lips this week is the word of truth and not worldly babble.
2. Who are the people in your life who, if you fail to heed Scripture’s warnings, might be negatively impacted by your sin?
3. Pray this week that God would give you a love for His Word as seen in Psalm 19:7-11.

Psalm 33:6 – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.”