

Union Bethel AME Church Bible Study

Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#

Zoom Meeting ID 895 5691 3317, Passcode 650467

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Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

2 Timothy 2:1-2

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1 You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; 2 and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

To do the work God has planned for us we must be strong. It is not our own strength that we need but it is strength by the grace God gives us through Christ Jesus. We are no longer constrained to the law but operate in unmerited favor because of Christ Jesus. That strength increases when faithful people who follow God are empowered to guide others in the faith walk.

If you were to make a Master Class presentation on strength by grace through God in Christ Jesus what would be your talking points?

2 Timothy 2:3-7

3 Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. 5 And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. 6 It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Paul asks Timothy to not abuse his position. Timothy should share in the difficulties of those in his charge. In this Scripture, Jesus is the officer and therefore Timothy should aim to please Jesus. While Paul tells Timothy to

share in the problems of the people, Paul also does not want Timothy to take more than his is due for his labor. There is work to do and workers should be paid reasonable wages.

How do we know that we are fair in our treatment of workers?

2 Timothy 2:8-13

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, 9 for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. 11 The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

The word of God is not chained. It is free for all who will hear and receive the gospel. Since God’s word is not chained and we follow God’s word we are free. We are free to work in the vineyard. We are free to spread the gospel. There is nothing that gets in our way. We live free not denying who Christ Jesus is. Even when our faith is weak, Christ Jesus will be faithful to us.

When have you been weak and yet persevered knowing Christ Jesus was remaining faithful?

What does freedom mean to you?

2 Timothy 2:14-19

14 Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. **15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. **16** Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, **17** and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, **18** who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some. **19** But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness."

People are too easily swayed by words. The words do not need to be true in too many incidences today. All that seems to be needed is for someone to speak a falsehood boldly and some people will believe what is said and then repeat it. Disrespectful speech should also be avoided as it leads others into wickedness. We should always speak the truth to separate our words from those that are profane.

How does profane speech lead to destruction?

What should we do when we hear profane speech?

2

Timothy 2:20-21

20 In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. **21** All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work.

It should be easy to envision that we are priceless in the eyes of God, dedicated to good works. However, the world puts effort into making people feel less than worthy of love and does not honor everyone's gifts. The gifts may be unpolished but they are not unworthy since the gifts are from God.

Should we consider differences between special use and ordinary use when we look at contributions?

Timothy 2:22-26

***22** Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **23** Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. **24** And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, patient, **25** correcting opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, **26** and that they may escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

We need to stay away from controversies that will drag us into quarrels. If we do have a difference of opinion on a worthy matter, we need to be gentle in presenting our side or any correction. It is between God and the individual if a person will repent and accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. All that can be done is present the truth in a loving way.

How should verses 23-26 guide us when encountering people spreading false information?
