

Vessels of Honor

Vine & Branch Community Church, 10/30/22

2 Timothy 2:20-24

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul uses the analogy of “vessels” to encourage young Timothy to greater and greater service to God, for His good works, by being honorable and approved. This requires a life that is worthy.

Becoming Approved by God

2 Timothy 2:15: *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

- **“Dokimos”** – “tried,” “approved,” “genuine,” “esteemed,” “acceptable.”
- **“Adokimos”** – “worthless, has not stood the test, has been shown to be a sham, found to be unsuitable”

Honorable vessels (silver, gold):

- For honorable purposes
- Made from high quality materials
- Clean and beautiful
- Undamaged, not scratched or broken.

*Draw the most honorable vessel
in your home*

*Draw the most dishonorable vessel
in your home*

Dishonorable vessels (wood, clay):

- For common use
- For unsanitary use
- Inexpensive
- Unsightly and/or unclean.
- Damaged

Putting the dishonorable into the honorable dishonors the honorable.

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Paul establishes three things through this vivid analogy of the vessels:

1. The Holy Word of God is of the utmost highest honor.
2. The task of entrusting, teaching, and otherwise passing on God's Word is an honorable act.
3. It's only appropriate for God's Word to be borne by a vessel of honor

We all should desire to be used by God for His purposes. *It is our ultimate destiny.*

2 Timothy 1:9 “...who saved us and called us **to a holy calling**, not because of our works but **because of his own purpose** and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began”

Do your best to present yourself to God... **“spoudazo”** – “to make haste or give diligence with eagerness.” In other words – TRY HARD

We should strive to keep clean so as not to dishonor God's purposes:

1. **v.21** “*Cleanse yourself from what is dishonorable...*”
2. **v.22** “*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*”
3. **v.23** “*Don't have anything to do with **foolish and stupid arguments...***”
4. **v.24** “*And the Lord's servant must **not be quarrelsome but kind** to everyone, **able to teach**, patiently **enduring evil**”*

We are called to be approved workers for God – and we do this by becoming honorable vessels – approved to carry God's most precious word to others. We do this not only by grace of Christ, but by trying hard - with diligence and eagerness - to rid ourselves of dishonorable things in our lives.