

REKINDLE THE EMBERS

A Study in 2 Timothy

LESSON 3

Prayerfully read 2 Timothy 2:11-26 in your own Bible. Remember to highlight and jot down anything that the Lord highlights to your heart.

In the Amplified Bible 2 Timothy 2:11 reads: “This saying is **sure** and **worthy of confidence**; if we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him.”

1) What do you think it means to **die** with Christ?
See also Galatians 2:20 & 5:24.

2) What do you think it means to **live** with Him?
See Colossians 3:1-3 & 12-14.

2 Timothy 2:12: “If we **endure**, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny and disown and reject Him, He will also deny and disown and reject us.”

3) Paul speaks much about endurance. We have been promised rewards for enduring and there also appears to be great consequences for not enduring. Although some may view this verse to be speaking about unbelievers denying Christ and others as believers who do not endure and fall away from the faith....the fact remains that throughout Scripture much emphasis is placed on **persevering** in the faith. Look up and write out the definition for the word “**Persevere**.” Underneath your recording of the definition, share what helps you to “**keep on keeping on**.” If you have a favorite verse that encourages you to persevere, please share that as well.

2 Timothy 2:13-14: “If we are faithless (do not believe and are untrue to Him), **He remains true** (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He **cannot deny Himself**. Remind the people of **these facts** and **solemnly charge** them in the presence of the Lord to **avoid petty controversy** over words, which does no good but **upsets and undermines** the faith of the hearers.”

4) What are “the facts” that Paul tells Timothy to remind the people of?
(See verse 13)

5) What is the “**Solemn Charge** in verse 14?”

These are not warnings to be taken lightly, seeing the damaging effects our petty controversies cause. (See also 2 Timothy 2:16 & 23; 1 Timothy 1:3-6; 1 Timothy 4:1 & 6 and Titus 3:9-10).

6) Do you know the difference between standing up for the Truth and engaging in petty controversy? When can you, in God’s love, **peacefully agree to disagree** and when can you not? See Romans 14:1 and Jude 1:3 & 4 for some insight and share your thoughts.

7) Even when those times come that we must confront others with uncompromising truth, look at what Paul tells Timothy his attitude is to be in **verses 25 and 26**. Write down Paul’s instruction to Timothy in these verses.

8) Note that Paul tells Timothy in verse 24, even when he is confronting his opponents, he is to be **preserving the bond of peace**. These seem like two conflicting commands. Do you think this is possible? How? Read through verses 24-26 again and jot down some of the ways we are to “pursue peace” in the face of conflict.

a. Look up Proverbs 15:1, Ephesians 4:29, & 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15. What other insights do we gain from these verses on how we can speak the truth in love?

9) What in these passages (2 Timothy 2:13-14 & 24-26) personally speaks to your heart?

Verse 15 reads: “**Study and be eager and do your utmost** to present yourself to God **approved**, tested by trial, a workman (or woman) who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing (rightly handling and skillfully teaching) the Word of Truth.”

10) The word “**approved**” literally means to “**pass the test**”. We cannot be approved without being tested. Paul tells Timothy to do **his utmost**; the most possible, to the highest degree, to the uttermost, to present himself to God approved, as a workman who has no cause to be ashamed. Look at the beginning of this verse. How does he tell Timothy to do this?

11) Why is this so important? How does studying the Word of God keep us from being “ashamed?” What do we gain? Look at the final words Paul writes in verse 15.

In verses 20 & 21 Paul states: “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble use and some for menial and ignoble use. So whoever cleanses himself from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences, will be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.”

12) What does Paul say **determines** whether we are a vessel of gold and silver or of wood and earthenware?

13) We are living in a world where corruption is all around us. Jesus told the Pharisees that He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. What about us? How are we to separate ourselves? To what degree? Look at 2 Corinthians 6:14 through 7:1 and share what you think the Lord is telling us.

14) If we are to follow Jesus' example in reaching out to those who need Him most, how are we to escape from being polluted and influenced by those we are trying to help? Share your thoughts after reading the following Scriptures: James 5:19 & 20; 2 Peter 3:17; Jude 20-23.

15) Share what has ministered to you most in Lesson 3. What things were highlighted to your heart as you went through 2 Timothy 2:11-26.

“You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read, and your life is under scrutiny every day. What do others learn from you? Do they see an accurate picture of your God?”

John McArthur (1939-Present) American Pastor and Author