

(2:14) – “Of these things put them in remembrance” – God’s children need to be reminded of truths they already know for their edification and encouragement in fighting sinful flesh as we strive to serve the Lord. “These things” to which Paul refers are the things of the Gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in and by the Lord Jesus Christ that gives us the comfort, peace, and assurance we need to live lives of godliness so as to honor our Savior and Lord. These are the truths Paul had emphasized in chapter one of how God saves sinners by His grace through the obedience unto death (the blood and righteousness) of Christ, our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer and Preserver (2 Tim. 1:7-12).

“Charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers” – We who believe in Christ are to conduct ourselves knowing that all that we do is in God’s presence. Nothing is hidden from our all-knowing and all-seeing God. One of the things that is common, even among believers, is striving over “words to no profit.” This refers to useless debates over words that neither build up and inspire growth in grace and knowledge of Christ nor worship of God. These are such debates that actually subvert (hinder, confuse, and divide) those who hear this.

(2:15) – The way to honor the Lord, edify brethren, inspire worship and godliness, and promote the salvation of the lost is, first, a positive – **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.”** We are to study, labour, preach and declare the Gospel and the whole word of God as in the sight of God, seeking only His approval and not the approval of men. The study and ministry of the word is a work that requires diligence, application, and sincerity, and for which no one is sufficient without the grace of God under the leadership of the Spirit. Those who are employed in this work have no reason to be ashamed (2 Tim. 1:8). The key here is **“rightly dividing the word of truth”** i.e. rightly handling, skillfully teaching and correctly interpreting the Scriptures in their relation to other Scriptures (concerning Christ, His person and work, the law and the Gospel) and being able to give both milk and meat to feed the babes, the young, and the elders (2 Peter 1:20, 21; Acts 10:43; Luke 24:44, 45; Acts 20:20, 27; 1 Cor. 3:2).

(2:16) – Secondly, here is the negative aspect of edifying the brethren – **“But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”** Avoid vain, empty, useless rambling, empty talk and speculation. Those who are not content with the simplicity of the Gospel turn it into profane philosophy, aiming at applause rather than the profit of the church (1 Cor. 2:1-5; 1:17-24). We do not need novelties of words, high-sounding phrases, and modern criticisms; these only lead men into more ungodliness. We need the word of our Lord preached as it is to men as they are!

(2:17-18) – “And their word will eat as doth a canker:” – Paul compares the errors and heresies of false teachers to gangrene. If it is not cut out, it will spread to the whole body until it destroys the man. These false teachers and their errors are to be opposed and those infected with them are to be cut off lest they corrupt the whole church (Rom. 16:17-18; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11). Paul was moved by the Spirit to name two heretics – **“of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;”** ... **“Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”** These men fell from the truth claiming that there was no future resurrection of the dead. Some think that they taught that there is no resurrection except spiritual resurrection or regeneration. Whatever they taught, it was contrary to the scriptures and undermined the faith of some (cf. 1 Cor. 15). These errors must be rooted up and out (Titus 1:13, 14; 1 Tim. 1:19, 20; 4:16). We know that if God has truly saved a sinner and given that sinner the gift of faith in Christ and repentance of dead works, though still as sinful human beings they can be sometimes diverted and confused, their faith cannot be overthrown to the point of apostasy. Christ will bring them back to the Word of God and preserve them unto glory. Those whose faith is overthrown unto perdition did not have God-given faith but were merely false professors who appeared to be saved (1 John 2:18-20). This truth is stated in the next verse –

(2:19) – “Nevertheless” – There is no reason why true believers should lose heart and be overly disturbed, although they see people fall whom they thought to be saved. Why? First, because Christ and His righteousness imputed is the sure foundation of our salvation (Rom. 8:33-34). Secondly, the faith that God has given us gives us the assurance that He knows us intimately in the election of grace – **“the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS.”** The LORD knows all; He is omniscient, but He knows His elect, His children in a special way, a way of love and grace that works in Christ for their salvation and final glory (compare this to Matthew 7:21-23). That faith (which is the faith of God's elect) is the operation of God, the gift of His grace, has Christ as its author, finisher and object and is firm and immovable as a foundation laid by God! It stands sure, being supported by the power of God and the intercession of Christ, and cannot be overthrown by Satan, false teachers or trials of life (Rom. 8:28-31, 38, 39).

“And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” – Here, Paul says that all who claim Christ as their Lord and Savior recognize and depart from all iniquity – all that does not honor and glorify God in Christ, the LORD our righteousness. We who are saved by God's grace in Christ, have a beloved Master to love, trust, and glorify in our attitude, actions, and words. To call on His name is also to be called by His name as a woman is married to a man and is called by his name.