

# TRAINING BIBLE TEACHERS

2 Timothy 2:14-19

In our previous study of 2 Timothy 2:1-13, we discovered that the Roman persecution against Christianity created a shortage of trained Bible teachers because of the many who abandoned the Faith. Paul assigned Timothy the task of training up a new cadre of Bible teachers (2 Timothy 2:2).

In 2 Timothy 2:14-19 Paul emphasized to Timothy the need to train his students to avoid the practices of false teachers, and to work hard to teach God's Word correctly.

*2:14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.*

First challenge - "them" is not in the Greek text. Other translations read "people". What seems the best translation in context?

The second challenge - to what does the phrase "these things" refer?

Timothy probably recruited men from the Ephesian church. According to 1 Timothy 6:3-4 to whom and what might these men have been exposed that would need to be "untaught".

*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.*

Was this directed to Timothy?

What had Timothy been doing in Ephesus for the past four years before receiving this letter?

Would Paul have tasked Timothy with training Bible teachers if Timothy were not, himself, a proven teacher?

*16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.*

Another challenge - in verse 16 "people" does not appear in the Greek text. It should simply read, "But avoid empty profane words for they increase to more ungodliness".

In context, who engages in irreverent babble? Clue: Hymenaeus and Philetus are of that group and their talk spreads like gangrene.

Hymenaeus and Philetus were teaching the heresy of a completed resurrection and it was causing serious trouble for the faith of some believers. In verse 19 Paul counters Hymenaeus and Philetus.

*2:19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."*

God's "foundation" are the core truths which center on the person and work of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10). The term "but" would be better translated "nevertheless". In spite of the untruth Hymenaeus and Philetus were

teaching, God's truth about Jesus Christ remains true, especially the fact of the resurrection that will occur at the Rapture which has not yet taken place.

The first inscription was a word of assurance to those upset by Hymenaeus and Philetus and left to wonder if they weren't resurrected, perhaps they were not saved. "The Lord knows those who are His.", even if they were made to feel unsure.

The second inscription was an encouragement to all those still professing faith in Jesus. "Let all who name the name of the Lord avoid unrighteousness." It was a call to pursue a godly life.

In 2 Timothy 2:14-19, Paul emphasized to Timothy the need to train his students to avoid the practices of the false teachers and to work hard to correctly teach God's Word.

During times of persecution the people of God especially need God's Word to strengthen their faith and endurance. But at all times, the people of God need God's Word in order to be transformed to be like Christ. The correct teaching of God's Word must be the highest priority for every local church.

Studying and teaching the Bible correctly is hard work. We must insist our Bible teachers are 1) well-trained in a historical-grammatical-literal hermeneutic and 2) primarily teach expositively (through books of the Bible).

Thank you for valuing correct Bible teaching by financially enabling me, Phil, Nate and Matt to have the time to study and prepare. And thank you to all our Home Group leaders and Bible study teachers who put in the time and energy to study God's Word so that you can teach it correctly. God is using you to mature our church family!

GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- **Baptism Class, Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM, Modular.**
- **Blood Drive, Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 7:00 PM, Modular.**
- **Men's Breakfast, Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM**  
\$10, signup on the patio.
- **VOM Needs for June: Bar Soap (in paper, not cardboard) / Nail Clippers**