1 – **Useful To The Master**

2 Timothy 2:20-26

2 – **Context**

* Paul 2nd letter to his faithful servant Timothy shortly before his death.
* Paul considered Timothy a “**kindred spirit”** who was **“genuinely be concerned (the) welfare”** of his brethren and had displayed his **“proven worth”**.
* Yet Paul was compelled to remind Timothy of the need to be **“useful to the Master”** in
2 Timothy 2:21.

3 - **Useful To The Master**

**A responsibility of all members**.
(1 Corinthians 12:14-18; Ephesians 4:12-16)

**Neither overestimate or underestimate our usefulness**.
(1 Corinthians 3:6-9; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 3:20-21; Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20-21)

**There’s more work than workers**. (Matthew 9:36-38)

4 - **Useful To The Master**

**Look to biblical examples:**

* **Abraham -** willing to forsake everything by faith. (Hebrews 11:8-9, 17-19)
* **Moses -** looking beyond the things of this life.
	+ No excuses. (Exodus 3:11; 4:10)
* **Joseph** - faith in God to resist temptation even when suffering unjustly. (Genesis 39:9)

5 - **Useful To The Master**

**Look to biblical examples:**

* **David** - trusting that God would fight with him and for him (1 Samuel 17:37, 45).
* **Daniel -** conviction to not defile himself (1:8) and consistency to always do what pleased God. (6:10, 16)
* **Esther** - courage to say what needs to be said. (4:11-16)

6 – **Useful To The Master**

**Look to biblical examples:**

* **Paul** - willing to crucify self (Galatians 2:20) and “spend and be spent” for Christ. (2 Corinthians 12:15).
* **Jesus Christ -** willing to sacrifice Himself for us to please His Father in all things . (6:10, 16)

7 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Timothy’s usefulness is seen in his capacity as:

* **A good soldier** (2:3-4)
	+ Submits to authority and doesn’t become “entangled”.
* **A disciplined and diligent athlete**. (2:5)
	+ Self control, preparation, doing whatever the team needs.
* **A hard-working farmer** (2:6)
	+ Diligently labors today for a reward yet to come.

8 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

* “**Accurately handling the word of truth**” (2:15; we need “sound doctrine”, 1 Timothy 4:6; Titus 2:1; Romans 16:17)
* **“Avoid worldly and empty chatter”** (2:16-18; rather, “preach the word”, (2 Timothy 4:1-3)

9 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

* **Walk in the fear of the Lord**. (2:19; Psalms 94:7-11)
* **“Abstain (depart) from wickedness”** (2:19; Titus 2:11-14)
* Choose to be **“a vessel for honor”**.(2:20, watch what we consume (Proverbs 4:23) and what we’re filled with. (Acts 5:3; Ephesians 5:18)

10 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

**Cleanse ourselves from “these things”**(2:21; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Isaiah 6:7-8; 1 John 1:7-9)

* Overcoming selfishness. (Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:11-13)

11 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

**Be prepared for “every good work”**
(2:21; Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14)

* **In contrast to apathy and indifference**. (Revelation 3:14ff; Ezra 7:23; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Romans 12:11)
* **By having the right priority**. (Matthew 6:33; Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 19:16ff; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 9:57-62)

12 - **Consequences of not being useful**

**First, are we growing in our usefulness**?
(1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Peter 1:5-8)

* Lack of growth can render us “**useless**” or “**unfruitful**”.
(2 Peter 1:8-11)
* Have we become **“stagnant in spirit”**?(Zephaniah 1:12)

13 - **Consequences of not being useful**

Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14ff)

* Note the one talent person whom the Master addressed in vs. 26: **“You wicked, lazy slave… throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness…”**
* **“worthless” -** “useless… good for nothing” (Vine)
* We must “**bear fruit**” - (John 15:4-8; 2 Peter 1:8)

What is **our duty**? (1 Cor. 3:5-9; Matthew 13:3)

14 - **Usefulness begins with forgiveness**

Our usefulness begins with forgiveness of sins and salvation from the judgment to come. (2 Timothy 2:8-10; Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

If as a child of God, we allow sin once again to separate us (Isaiah 59:1-2) from our Father, we need to acknowledge and repent of our sin and we can be cleansed and once again be useful to Him. (1 John 1:6-9)