1 - **“Useful To The Master”** Part 2

2 Timothy 2:20-26

2 - **Paul’s Exhortation to Timothy:**

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 Cor. 3:6-9; Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 3:20-21; Philippians 2:13)
* **There’s more work than workers**. (Matt. 9:36-38)

4 - **Biblical Examples of those Useful To The Master**

* **Abraham - willing to forsake** everything by faith.
* **Moses - learned not to make excuses**.
* **Joseph** - **resisting temptation**.
* **David** - **trusting that God would fight** with him.
* **Daniel - consistent conviction** to please God.
* **Esther** - **courage** to say what needs to be said.
* **Paul** - willing to **crucify self.**
* **Jesus** - **always pleased His Father** to the point of death.

5 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Timothy’s usefulness is seen in his capacity as:

* **A good soldier** (2:3-4)
* **A disciplined and diligent athlete**. (2:5)
* **A hard-working farmer** (2:6)

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

* “**Accurately handling the word of truth**”
* **“Avoid worldly and empty chatter”**

6 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

* “**Accurately handling the word of truth**” (2:15)
* **“Avoid worldly and empty chatter”** (2:16, 23)
* **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, Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 5:18)

7 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

* **Cleanse ourselves from “these things”** (2:21; 2 Cor. 7:1; Isaiah 6:7-8; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:1-3)
* **Be prepared for “every good work”** (2:21; Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14)
* “**Flee youthful lusts**…” (2:22; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Cor. 6:18)
* **Engage in the pursuit** of righteousness, faith, love and peace. (2:22; 1 Timothy 6:11; Philippians 3:12-14)

8 - **Keys To Our Usefulness**

Usefulness depends on our ability to:

* **Develop the aptitude to teach others patiently and correcting the opposition.** (2:24-25; Hebrews 5:12-14; Ephesians 6:4)

9 - **Excuses for not being Useful**

* **First, be self-aware** when we hear ourselves offering excuses.
* Second, we have to **remember how our excuses make God angry**. (Exodus 4:14)
* Third, we **need to have courage & faith** to know that whatever God needs us to do, He will give us the strength and abilities to accomplish more than we think possible.
(1 Peter 4:11; Ephesians 3:20-21)

10 - **Consequences of not being useful**

**First, are we growing in our usefulness**? (1 Thessalonians 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)

11 - **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)

12 - **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)