

How to Keep the Truth Straight

2 Timothy 2:14-18

Introduction:

- A. Think of examples where you have been deceived into believing something that is not true (e.g. What's legal, Easter, Tooth fairy).
- B. When it comes to biblical truth
 - 1. With so many d_____ as to what the truth is, how can we be sure that we are keeping the truth straight?
 - 2. Paul gives Timothy simple guidelines to follow to help him keep the truth straight. Let's follow them!

Review God's revelation (14-15)

- A. What were the "things" Timothy was to remind others about?
 - 1. All the things that Timothy had h_____ from Paul (v. 2)
 - 2. Paul only taught what he had received from _____ (v. 8; Gal 1:11,12).
- B. Should we ever tire of being reminded of God's word?
- C. Keep r_____ it!
 - 1. Review the p_____ in the Bible (much of which has to do with the future from the standpoint of the time it was made)
 - a. Most of predictive prophecy has been f_____
 - b. The prophecies yet to be fulfilled mostly have to do with s_____ and Christ's second Coming.
 - 2. Review the t_____ of the Bible (the nature of God, the nature of man, salvation, how to "things" such as how to pray, how not to worry, how to confront).
 - 3. Review the c_____ of the Bible (see Matt 28:20)
 - a. There are commands related to r_____ (spouses, employees, parents, kids, pastors).
 - b. There are commands of love, forgiveness, building others up, etc.
- D. Use a combination of ways to review God's word
 - 1. R_____ it and l_____ to it (see Rev 1:3)
 - 2. Take n_____
 - 3. M_____ on it throughout the day
 - 4. D_____ it with others

Refuse man's speculation (16-18)

- A. What is the difference between speculation and revelation?
 - 1. Speculation - we use our reasoning to g_____ understanding
 - 2. Revelation - G_____ gives us understanding

- B. Hymenaeus and Philetus _____ from the truth because of speculation
1. They said that the resurrection had already _____.
 2. They spiritualized this teaching (it happened spiritually) and were denying clear revelations of God on a future physical resurrection.
- C. Modern examples of human speculation that leads people away from God's revelation of the truth.
1. E_____
 - a. Speculation on the origin of life - all life as we see it today developed over billions of years from a simple-celled organism
 - b. Revelation on the origin of life – God c_____ all life that reproduce after their k_____ (Gen 1,2).
 2. The m_____ of the beast (Rev 13:16-18)
 - a. Past speculations on what it could be
 - 1) Social security system (S.S.S) – receiving a number from the government
 - 2) Bar codes on items for the purpose of buying and selling
 - 3) Computer chip underneath the skin
 - b. Revelation on the mark
 - 1) Those who have u_____ will refuse the mark (Rev 13:15-18)
 - 2) Those receiving the mark will be those who w_____ the false prophet (Rev 14:9-12)

Requires Proper Application (15)

- A. The instruction to Timothy
1. The command – to eagerly present himself without shame as a worker who has been _____ by God
 2. The method – by _____ handling or interpreting the word of truth (in other words, Timothy had to understand the scripture as it was originally intended to be understood and then make a proper application to life).
- B. Popular scriptures that have been misapplied
1. Jer 29:11 – *“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”*
 - a. Improper application is to personally claim this promise
 - b. Proper application
 - 1) Understand the original intent - This promise was given to the people of Judah who were in exile as a

- p_____ by God which He said would last 70 years.
- 2) Apply the universal principle - God's punishments are designed to bring about r_____ (read verses 10-14)
2. 2 Chron 7:14 – *if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
 - a. Improper application is to apply this to American Christians by saying that if American Christians pray, then God will make the USA prosperous.
 - b. Proper application
 - 1) Understand the original intent - God spoke these words to King Solomon promising that if He punished Israel for their sins by causing the land to be unproductive, He would restore the land to productivity if they r_____.
 - 2) Apply the universal principal - if God is disciplining you for a sin, then all you have to do is p_____ to Him with repentance and He will stop the punishment.
 3. 1Pet 2:24 – *By His wounds, you were healed.*
 - a. Improper application is that a believer need only to claim p_____ healing to receive it.
 - b. Proper application
 - 1) Understand the original intent – the context is about being spiritually healed from s_____ and so refers to salvation (*die to sin, live to righteousness, were like straying sheep but have returned to the Shepherd of your souls*).
 - 2) Apply the universal principal – Christ's work on the cross for sins effectively saves all believers from their sins.
 4. Mystical use of God's word – don't use it like a Ouija board

Conclusion – make this personal commitment to the Lord: *Lord, I will change anything and everything in my life that does not line up with Your word.*