

# Passing the Torch "An Approved Workman" 2 Timothy 2:14-26

## Introduction

2 Timothy is a letter written by Paul to his young son in the faith, Timothy. Paul appointed Timothy as the pastor in Ephesus and charged him with the task of grounding new Christians and strengthening the Church. In this letter, Paul writes to encourage Timothy not to give in or give up when the difficulties come.

1. Paul tells Timothy to \_\_\_\_\_ the believers that God will be with them and strengthen them in every situation.
2. Paul challenges Timothy to be an \_\_\_\_\_ workman.
3. Paul says that an approved worker is one that researches, studies diligently, and \_\_\_\_\_ for the task and shows up ready to give his very best effort.
4. Paul wanted Timothy to be a reliable and approved worker who could be counted on to preach the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An approved workman for Christ must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Paul calls out Timothy to properly \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God. Properly handling the Word of God involves several things.
  1. We must know what the word of God says!
  2. We must be able to apply the word of God to our own lives!
  3. We must diligently seek out the meaning of Scripture.
  4. We must understand and teach Scripture correctly so that others can embrace its truth!

7. There are imperative commands, "remind, shun, and \_\_\_\_\_."

## I. Don't Argue About Faith

8. The first lesson for approved workers is to learn not to \_\_\_\_\_ and strive about unprofitable words.

9. Paul says that striving about words is not only unprofitable but can even cause "\_\_\_\_\_" or more literally a "disaster."

10. Know and understand your beliefs and always be willing to share your \_\_\_\_\_ with others. However, you should never try to force your beliefs upon others. Each person must make their own choice about Jesus.

## II. Avoid Godless Chatter

11. Secondly, Paul says to "shun profane and idle \_\_\_\_\_."

12. In verse 17, Paul says the message of division spreads like \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Paul says we should remove ourselves from arguments that cause \_\_\_\_\_ because they are like a cancer that spreads rapidly.

14. Paul uses the example of cancer when he talks about the ruin caused by godless \_\_\_\_\_.

Hymenaeus and Philetus taught that the resurrection was already past and that believers were now living in God's millennial Kingdom, and there was no future \_\_\_\_\_.

15. Their teaching sabotaged the blessed \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus would return for his followers, and those who died in faith would experience a resurrection.

### III. Live A Clean Life

16. In verse 20, Paul adds that an approved worker must live a \_\_\_\_\_ life.
17. Cleansing is the pursuit of replacing bad habits with \_\_\_\_\_ ones.
18. Living a clean life means we do everything we can to be right with \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Paul also warns against the \_\_\_\_\_ that refuses to listen to anyone else and emphatically concludes that everyone who disagrees with them is wrong.
20. Certainly, living a clean life means that we flee sensual lust, but the Greek literally reads "\_\_\_\_\_ youthful desires."
21. Paul isn't referring so much to fleshly desires as to the temptations of pride, conceit, selfishness, arrogance, or trying to promote your own \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. Pursue Righteousness

22. Those who live a clean life pursue \_\_\_\_\_.
23. The idea that you can handle life's temptations has been the downfall of many who have fallen into \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Paul cautions Timothy to guard against the errors of the \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Paul tells Timothy to purge himself and separate himself from the things and people who belittle and \_\_\_\_\_ others but to associate with those who encourage and honor people.

### Conclusion

26. An approved workman does not argue over \_\_\_\_\_ issues. Approved workers avoid godless chatter, live a clean life, and pursue righteousness. Approved workers, who know how to handle the scriptures correctly deal gently with those who oppose them.

27. One of the very challenging things about being a servant of the Lord is that we must live a life that is worthy of \_\_\_\_\_.

28. Paul wanted Timothy to be \_\_\_\_\_ even if he had to correct those who opposed the gospel.

An approved worker can introduce a person to Jesus so they can repent of their sins and experience Christ's forgiveness. The hope is those who fight against God will come to their senses and open their eyes to the deception and lies of Satan. God wants all those who are captive to escape the snare of the devil. There are so many who need to escape the snare of the devil, and the good news is that God is ready to set them free. But each person must make their own choice who they will serve.

### **ANSWERS:**

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|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Remind     | 15. Resurrection   |
| 2. Approved   | 16. Hope           |
| 3. Prepares   | 17. Clean          |
| 4. Gospel     | 18. Good           |
| 5. Scriptures | 19. Others         |
| 6. Handle     | 20. Pride          |
| 7. Avoid      | 21. Flee           |
| 8. Argue      | 22. Wisdom         |
| 9. Ruin       | 23. Righteousness  |
| 10. Faith     | 24. Sin            |
| 11. Babblings | 25. Intellect      |
| 12. Cancer    | 26. Faith          |
| 13. Strife    | 27. Christlikeness |
| 14. Chatter   | 28. Humble         |