

The Minister God Uses

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Dr. Rick Reed, President of Heritage College & Seminary
Sunday, October 23, 2016

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. 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. 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. 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." ²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. ²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Questions:

- 1) Discuss what qualities God looks for in a minister.
- 2) There is a view that every believer is in a full-time ministry. Discuss.
- 3) What does it mean to handle the Word of God accurately and why is it important? Give examples.
- 4) How can individual congregation members help their pastors? Give practical examples. Find accountability partners and commit to one of the activities identified.
- 5) What can individual congregation members do to present themselves to God as "the ones approved"?
- 6) Contrast the Pastor's responsibility for the congregation with the congregation's responsibilities to the Pastor?
- 7) Why must a believer handle temptation immediately? Is anyone bulletproof? What are some practical ways to handle temptation?
- 8) How can we run hard with Pastor Jonathan after the Christ and His will?
- 9) What does it mean "to handle opposition graciously" in ministry? What should our attitude be about quarreling?
- 10) Discuss whether "getting clear on truth" and "staying clear of error" are mutually exclusive.
- 11) What is the role of love in Christian ministry?