



# Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

# Practical Advice

For Christian Ministry

**II Timothy 2:20-26**

**Lesson Seven**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Second Timothy

## Paul's Last Words

### Practical Advice—II Timothy 2:20-26

Paul begins this section of II Timothy with an illustration. Read II Timothy 2:20, 21. He pictures a big house. He says that in that house you will find all kinds of things. Some of them very valuable and some of them only fit for the use for which they are made. Think of a great staircase, in a beautiful home, that sweeps up from the first floor to the second. It has golden handrails. It has polished wood and a beautiful rug running up the center of the stairs. It is the only way one can get to the second floor. Now picture the concrete step that leads down a few inches into the garage. It is useful, but not really necessary.

The previous lesson talked about workmen who did a good job. For them, there was no need for shame. His follow up here points out the fact that in every church there are those who are very valuable, and those who are just there. Those who work hard, and become of great importance to the work and ministry of the church, are like the winding staircase. People are attracted to them, and they are at the very center of activity.

Others, who don't see the importance of Christian service, are just there. Now, don't get it wrong, the step down into the garage is of some value, but not much. The folks like that take up space in the classroom or worship gathering, but the church usually can do without them.

Those who resemble the winding stair case, will shine. And, they will be pointing others to God as He is revealed in Jesus. They will be lifting others to God, encouraging them to honor God, not the worker herself or himself.

Paul goes on to give some practical advice. Read II Timothy 2:22-26. That is pretty strong advice. Paul said to flee the evil desires of youth. Paul is not condemning youth here. He had previously told Timothy not to let anyone look down on his youthfulness, I Tim 4:12.

Youths have many good desires, but as Paul points out, there are some that are not so good such as: impatience, arrogance, being argumentative, disrespecting things just because they are old. He said run away, as fast as you can, from such things.

Then he said there are some good things that both youths and adults can and should want to do. He said that Timothy and all the rest of us should pursue four things. First is righteousness. This is the opportunity that we have to do the right things. We do the right thing for and with God. We follow His leadership and His word to us in Scripture. We do the right thing for and with our neighbors. Since everyone on earth is our neighbor, we will work hard

# Second Timothy

## Paul's Last Words

### Practical Advice—II Timothy 2:20-26

at doing what is best for everyone.

Next Paul said that Timothy, and we, should pursue faith. Simply put, Paul was encouraging Timothy to learn to trust. Timothy knew a lot about God and His Son, Jesus. Paul wanted Timothy to teach and live in faith, trusting God for all he needed.

The third quality Paul encouraged in Timothy was love. This, as we have said in previous lessons, is a God-quality that we should all want to live. Love is doing only that which will build others up, and making it our goal to help them be all that they can be. This does away with jealousy, revenge and abuse.

The final thing Paul wants Timothy to go after is peace. Now for Paul, peace was not just the absence of war. It wasn't just getting along with everyone. Peace, for Paul, was what Jesus urged upon His followers. Read Matthew 5:9, Mark 9:50, John 14:27. It is a peace that is seen in a loving relationship with God, and a caring, self-sacrificial relationship with other humans. It is love in action.

He warns against foolish and stupid arguments. Read Titus 3:9. There are folks who just live for fussing and fighting. They will tempt us into arguments with all kinds of stupid stuff. Paul said, "Don't."

Then Paul made another list, in verse twenty-four and twenty-five. He said that the servant of the Lord will be kind to everyone, be able to teach, be patient with those who do you wrong, and to gently teach those who are who need to repent.

Some of these have been trapped by the Devil and our patient, gentle teaching will bring them back to God and their repentance will open the way for new knowledge of God.

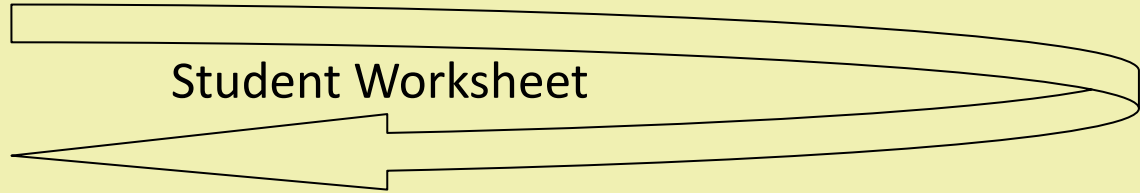
\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

**Scripture Memory:** "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." II Timothy 2:22

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to seek after righteousness, faith, love and peace.

# Second Timothy

## Paul's Last Words



### Practical Advice—II Timothy 2:20-26

-Church workers who resemble the beautiful winding staircase will shine and what else?

-What did Paul point out as the not so good desires of youth?

-What four things did Paul tell Timothy that he should pursue?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

-In verse twenty-four and twenty-five. Paul said that the servant of the Lord will be

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

**Scripture Memory:** "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." II Timothy 2:22

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.