Intro:

Character & Competence <u>Character</u> - What we are <u>Competence</u> - What we do

- I. Vessels (v 20)
 - A. Household of God (2 Timothy 2:19a, 1 Timothy 3:15)
 - B. Various vessels
 - 1. Honorable
 - 2. <u>Dishonorable</u>
 - C. Vessel Maker
 - 1. His <u>choice</u> (Isaiah 29:16, 64:8)
 - 2. Salvation vs. Service (Romans 9:18-24)
- II. Approved vessel (v 21)
 - A. <u>Self-cleaning</u> (2 Corinthians 3:5) [ekkathairō] - catharsis
 - 1. These things (2 Timothy 2:14-18)
 - 2. The process
 - a. <u>Flee</u> (v 22a)
 - 1. Youthful lusts (1 Timothy 6:10-11)
 - 2. Word <u>fighting</u> (vv 23-24a) (1 Timothy 6:4)
 - b. **Pursue** (v 22) (1 Timothy 4:16)
 - 1. Righteousness doing what is right. (James 4:17)
 - 2. Faith trust in God.
 - 3. Love seeking others good.
 - 4. **<u>Peace</u>** resting in salvation.
 - 3. Outcome (v 21)
 - a. Vessel of <u>honor</u> intended purpose.
 - b. **Sanctified** set aside for a specific purpose.
 - c. Useful
 - d. Prepared for **good** works (Ephesians 2:10)

- B. Bond-servant (vv 24-25a) (1 Peter 1:15)
 - 1. Kind/gentle [ēpios] (1 Thessalonians 2:7)
 - 2. Able to teach
 - 3. <u>Patient</u>
 - 4. Gentle/meek [praÿtēs] (Matthew 11:29)
 - a. <u>**Correct**</u> those in opposition 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Peter 3:13-18
 - b. Leading to **salvation** (Matthew 7:14)
- III. Application

Question #1 - Am I a vessel of honor or dishonor?

Only you and the Lord know what is on the inside.

Question #2 - Am I a peacemaker?

Neither run toward, nor flee from conflict.

Matthew 5:9

The condition for usefulness is not skillfulness but holiness. Charles Spurgeon said, "But let a man once become really holy, even though he has but the slenderest possible ability, and he will be a fitter instrument in God's hand than the man of gigantic accomplishments who is not obedient to the divine will, or clean and pure in the sight of the Lord God Almighty." (Spurgeon, Soul Winner, 41)¹

Next week: 2 Timothy 3:1-9

¹Christ-Centered Exposition: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, 2013, D. Platt, D. Akin, T. Merida, B & H Publishing Group