

Do Your Best; 2 Timothy 2:14-19

I. Just Enough

- A. A world philosophy of doing just enough to get by
- B. This is prevalent today
 - 1. "Pace yourself"
 - 2. "Slow down, you're making everyone else look bad"
 - 3. A certain company has a probationary period designed to train you to achieve 100% quota over a couple weeks
 - 4. My son-in-law achieved it in 2 days and was told by his co-workers to stop
- C. We are bombarded with the idea that we don't have to do our best, that somebody is obligated to pick up our slack (something for nothing)

II. Quarreling

- A. 2 Timothy 2:14; Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.
- B. Quarrel - to fight about words
 - 1. There are many places in Scripture that defines things that God says are sins
 - 2. Revelation 21:8; But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
 - 3. Romans 1:26–31; 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.
 - 4. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
 - 5. Just a couple of these quarrelsome words (phrases); wine, homosexual
- C. When we, as Christians, start arguing about things that either God is very clear on, or that God did not clarify, we "ruin" those who are listening
 - 1. Overthrow, destruction
 - 2. We get the English word "catastrophe" from this Greek word
 - 3. Congregations of the Lord's body have split over "wine." We argue about whether drinking alcohol is sinful but ignore drunkenness
 - 4. The world is trying to change God's idea about homosexuality
- D. If God calls it a sin, then I am bound to call it a sin as well
- E. If God does not call it a sin, then I am bound not to as well

III. Do Your Best

- A. 2 Timothy 2:15–18; 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.

- B. Rightly - accurately handling, teach the word correctly, expound it soundly, and preach fearlessly
 - C. Instead of spending endless hours arguing we could be sharing the Gospel with those who don't know Jesus and The Father's love
 - D. "Do your best" - to make haste, give diligence, make every effort, to be especially conscientious
 - 1. We spend 12 years learning reading, writing, and mathematics
 - 2. Seven hours a day of structured study, 5 days a week = 35 hours a week learning academics (not including homework)
 - 3. Four hours a week of structured bible learning (2 hours of study and 2 hours of lecture)
 - 4. 1295 (185 days, 7 hours a day) hours a year in academics versus 216 hours (4 hours a week, 52 weeks a year) in Bible
 - 5. An additional 30 minutes a day for the year is only 182 more hours (398 total)
 - 6. What are our priorities? Do we make time to correctly handle God's word? (don't rely on me)
 - 7. Do we "do our best?"
 - E. Psalm 1:1–3; 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
 - F. Psalm 19:7–11; 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
 - G. Philippians 4:8–9; 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- IV. Diligent - Colossians 3:23; Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,