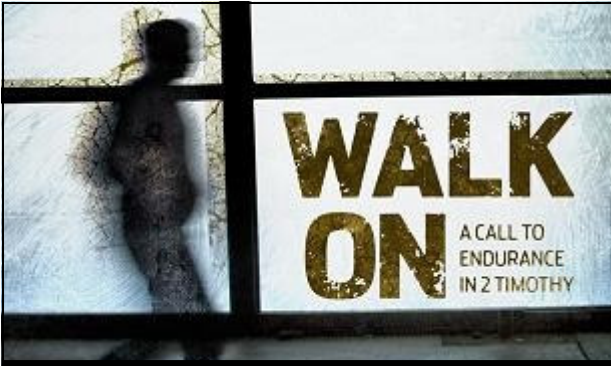


Don't Swerve - 2 Timothy 2:14-26

*For the people of the Inversion Fellowship
March 20th 2008
Jonathan Phipps*



2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26 ESV

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. 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.

ENDURANCE FOR THE JOURNEY

Pastoral Endurance

Leaders in the covenant community have an important responsibility to "rightly handle" God's word, so as to help people walk in the right direction. God does not approve of those who mishandle or manipulate the Bible towards their own ends, and they will ultimately be brought under shame. It takes much diligence, perseverance and humility for a pastor to walk faithfully for a lifetime.

Gospel Endurance

The content of the Gospel message is absolutely critical in this call to endurance. The narrative of God's covenant-keeping work in the world can be seen through the themes of creation, fall, redemption and recreation. And in the midst of this great story we can also get a glimpse into the heart of the Gospel, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." (1 Cor. 15:3-4, ESV) We must walk on in the truth of this gospel.

MY NOTES - 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

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