

Becoming a Useful TOOL in God's Shed

Growing into a vessel of honor/ A useable instrument; 2 Timothy 2:20-26, part 1

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The Introduction:

2 Corinthians 5:15 ...He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Psalms 101:2b I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.

20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

The Illustration:

20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor.

Romans 9:21 Does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?

2 Corinthians 4:7 we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.

#1 A useful tool will have a _____ life ^{21a}

21a Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.

John MacArthur You do not expect unbelievers to think, talk, and behave like Christians, and your guard tends to be up against their influence. But, like "worldly and empty chatter" that leads "to further ungodliness" and spreads "like gangrene" (2 Tim. 2:16-17), willing association with ungodly believers, vessels of dishonor, inevitably will cause some of their sin to infect you, whether you realize it or not.

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived, Bad company corrupts good morals.*

2 Thessalonians 3:14 *If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.*

#2 A useful tool will desire a _____ heart 21b

21b *sanctified*

1 Thessalonians 4:3 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;*
7 *For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.*

#3 A useful tool will pursue becoming _____ to God 21c

21c *useful to the Master*

1 Corinthians 9:27 *I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

1 Corinthians 6:19 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

#4 A useful tool will choose to do _____ for God 21d

21d *prepared for every good work.*

WITNESS WITH GOOD WORKS [Matthew 5:16](#) Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. WOMEN DO GOOD WORKS [1 Timothy 2:10](#) rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. WIDOWS DO GOOD WORKS [1 Timothy 5:10](#) having a reputation for good works. THE RICH DO GOOD WORKS [1 Timothy 6:18](#) Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share. AND IF YOU DON'T DO GOOD WORKS, you are in a SCARY PLACE [Titus 1:16](#) They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

[Ephesians 2:10](#) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

The fruitful believer makes difficult lifestyle choices to be useful to Christ.

TAKE HOME

- A. Being useful means _____ is important.
- B. Being useful means Christ is _____.
- C. Being useful means Christ is your _____.

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. Why does God refer to us as vessels for honor or dishonor in this passage?
2. Describe a vessel/person of dishonor (what do they act like). Describe a vessel of honor.
3. Why does Paul motivate Timothy to live as an honorable vessel?
4. What does it mean that a vessel is cleansed, sanctified, useful and willing to do good works?
5. Why don't many believers actually pursue being a vessel of honor?
6. What does it mean when believers don't pursue living and serving as vessels of honor?
7. What steps will you take this week to become a vessel of honor?

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