

2 Timothy 2: 19-21

The Bowls God Uses

Word of the Day: Bowl(s)

- 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- Bowls in the Bible are significant with bowls being in the Tabernacle that were used for holding incense, oil and sacrificial blood. (Ex. 25:29)
- In Revelation 16 bowls take on a significant meaning when God is pouring His wrath out upon the earth.
- The dual nature of bowls for blessings or curses shows us the Holiness of God.

1) A Bowl that stands on a Firm Foundation

1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Ephesians 2:19-22

- But Gods Firm Foundation Stands (19)
- "Satan does not get the last word, God does." Gordon D. Fee
- Matthew 16:18 tells us the gates of Hell cannot stand against the church.
- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 tells us that Christ is our foundation.
- Ephesians 2:19-22 says the foundation is the Apostles and Prophets.
- Matthew 7:24-27 we are called to build our house upon the Rock.

2) A Bowl that knows they belong to God

Numbers 16:5

- Bearing this Seal the Lord Knows those who are His. (19)
- The seal attests to the genuineness or ownership
- God knows who His true children are, and these false teachers may fool some people, but they are not going to fool God.
- Matthew 7:21-23 Depart from me I never Knew you.
- Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus talks about the wheat and the tares
- Matthew 25:1-46 God will eventually separate those who did not really follow Him.
- Ephesians 1:13 when we believed in Jesus we were sealed with the Holy Spirit
- 1 Corinthians 8:3 says if anyone loves God they are known by God.

3) A Bowl that Keeps themselves clean

Luke 13:6-8, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity (19)
- People who turn away from wickedness prove they belong to God.
- People who belong to God produce fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Psalm 34:14; Proverbs 3:7
- Your life speaks of what your heart believes. Luke 6:45-46

4) A Bowl that is content with how God uses them.

- 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. (20)
- The context of the passage is about true and false teachers
- We are vessels to carry Christ to a lost world (2 Cor. 4:7)
- This is about the vessels that are honorable and dishonorable, not the material they are made of.
- The focus is on the cleanliness of the vessel

5) A Bowl that makes itself Clean

- This pertains to both life and doctrine and is expected of all Christians.
- The Master has a request of you and that is you are clean so He can use you.

A) Holy

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- To be Holy meant to be Set apart
- 1 Peter 1:15 we are called to be Holy in all that we do.
- Philippians 1:6 He who began a good work will complete it.

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- To be holy means you are setting yourself aside for a divine purpose.
- Do you live your life in such a way that God can use you?

B) Useful to God

2 Corinthians 4:7, Matthew 5:14-16

- Although we are called to be separate from the world God still calls us to be in it. (1 Corinthians 5:9-13)
- John 15:18 Jesus said if the world hates you to keep in mind that it hated me first.

C) Ready

Ephesians 2:10

Closing

- Are you ready to be used by God?
- Are you standing on the firm foundation of Christ?
- Are you clean so that God can use you as He sees fit?

Devotionals 2 Timothy 2:19-21

1. Why is it important to know that Jesus Christ is our firm foundation?
2. What is a true sign of those who do belong to God according to verse 19?
3. What is the difference between a bowl that is honorable vs dishonorable according to verse 21?
4. What are some things we can do to be an influence to those around us without being influenced by them?
5. What are three characteristics of these honorable bowls in verse 21?
6. What will you do this week to begin making yourself ready to be used by God?

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John 15:5

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