



THE GREAT HOUSE

BIBLE BASICS CONFERENCE – 25/11/23

2 TIMOTHY 2:19-22

- [19] Yet the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, The Lord knows those that are his; and, Let every one who names the name of the Lord withdraw from iniquity.
- [20] But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also wooden and earthen; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.
- [21] If therefore one shall have purified himself from these, in separating himself from them, he shall be a vessel to honour, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for every good work.
- [22] But youthful lusts flee, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, with those that call upon the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 TIMOTHY

1. Paul's last inspired letter	2 Tim. 4:7
2. Written from his 2nd captivity in Rome	2 Tim. 2:9
3. Recipient: Timothy, Paul's fellow worker (& "child")	2 Tim. 1:2
4. Purpose: encourage and stir up Timothy	2 Tim. 1:6.7
5. Peculiarity: deals with the last days	2 Tim. 3:1
6. Relevance to "house of God": the "great" house	2 Tim. 2:20
7. Practical: guidance for the day of ruin	2 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:3-5

THE FIRM FOUNDATION

[19] Yet the firm **foundation** of God stands, having this seal, **The Lord knows those that are his**; and, Let every one who names the name of the Lord **withdraw from iniquity**.

foundation

- That which remains firm
- Even in the last days

His side

- Last days characterised by mixture.
- We cannot tell who is the Lord's
- But He can!

Seal

- Speaks of security
- Has two sides
 - The Lord's
 - ours

Our side

- Withdraw from iniquity
- This is enjoined on all those who "name" His name (professors)
- "The Lord" – He has authority

THE VESSELS AND THE GREAT HOUSE

[20] But in a **great house** there are not only **gold** and **silver** vessels, but also **wooden** and **earthen**; and some to **honour**, and some to **dishonour**.

Vessels speak of people

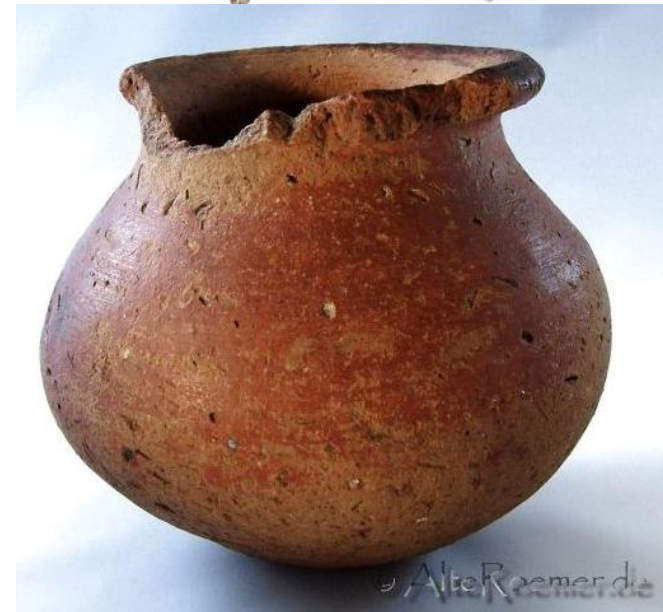
- An elect **vessel**... (Acts 9:15)
- Or has not the potter authority ... to make one **vessel** to honour, and another to dishonour? (Rom 9:21)
- ... dwell with them according to knowledge, as with a weaker, even the female, **vessel**, giving them honour (1 Pet. 3:7)

A great house


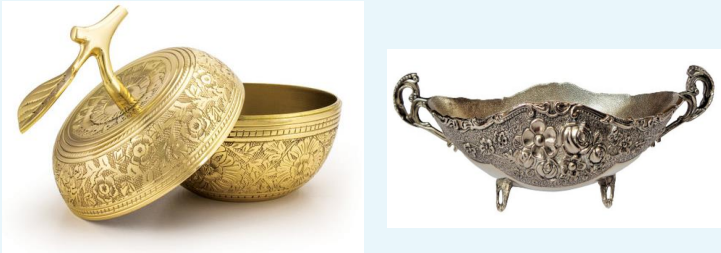
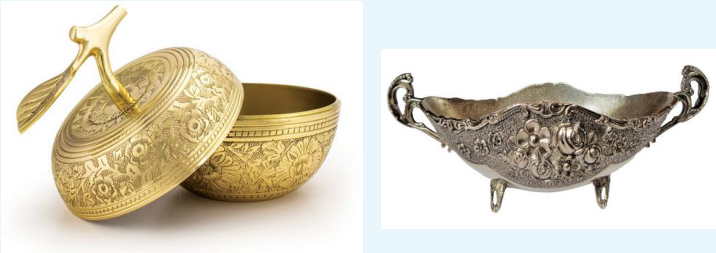
- Not: “the house of the Lord”
- An illustration for:
 - Everything called „Christian“
- Characteristic: mixture
 - Material
 - Usefulness

THE VESSELS – THE MATERIALS

[20] But in a **great house** there are not only **gold** and **silver** vessels, but also **wooden** and **earthen**; and some to **honour**, and some to **dishonour**.



QUIZ: WHICH COMBINATIONS EXIST?

	Vessel to honour	Vessel to dishonour
Unbeliever		
Believer		

HOW TO BE A VESSEL TO HONOUR

[21] **If** therefore one shall have **purified** himself from **these**, in separating himself from them, he shall be a **vessel to honour**, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for **every** good work.

If

- A condition
- Not automatically fulfilled

purify

- Need of separation
- Not only in one's own walk
- But also in associations (from **these**)!

vessel to honour

- Can only be so if separate from what dishonours the Lord

result

- To honour
- Sanctified (set apart)
- Serviceable to the Master
- Prepared
- To every good work

WHO IS A VESSEL TO (DIS-)HONOUR?

[21] If therefore one shall have **purified** himself from **these**, in separating himself from them, he shall be a **vessel to honour**, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for **every** good work.

Vessels to honour

- The 1st property mentioned is separation
- The result is usefulness „to every good work“

Who is a vessel to dishonour?

- Our task is not to categorise
- My focus must be on myself
- But who do I need to separate from?
- Those who are not willing to follow the Scriptures, against better knowledge.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

[22] But youthful lusts **flee**, and **pursue** righteousness, **faith**, **love**, **peace**,

Youthful lusts

- Pride
- Self confidence
- Impatience, love of risk, etc.

Pursue

- Follow after, with energy
- Same word as in Phil 3:14 (!)
 - ... towards the goal...

Righteousness

- Not: justification / position
- But: practical (Eph 6:14)

Faith

- Trust in God (daily life)
- Not: in the flesh / self

Love

- God's nature
- Its characteristics: 1 Cor. 13

Peace

- Not: peace with God (we have!)
- But: practical, in daily living

THE FIRM FOUNDATION

[22] But youthful lusts flee, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, with those that **call upon** the Lord out of a **pure heart**.

„with those“

- The path of separation does not lead to isolation
- We should look out for others

call upon...

- Expression of dependence
- Hallmark of believers (Gen. 4:26)
 - Throughout the ages ...

the Lord

- Again: His authority (cf. v. 19)

Pure heart

- Uprightness
- We cannot look into the heart
- We see the walk and hear the words
- We need discernment

SUMMARY

We have learned

- In the last days, a mixture of good & bad will be characteristic for the Christian profession.
 - Believers and unbelievers
 - Some believers to honour, some to dishonour
- In order to be a vessel to honour you need to separate from vessels to dishonour (“association“)
- On a personal level, I have to flee youthful lusts and pursue what is good.
- Godly separation does not lead into isolation.
- Nor does it unduly curtail the sphere of service.
- Objective: be a vessel to honour, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for every good work.
- Comforting: God has a way for His own, even in the very last days ...