

9 November 2024 – Session 8

Guidance for difficult times:

In the last days difficult times shall be there'
(2 Timothy 3:1)





What marks the last days (See 2 Timothy)

Within the Christian profession (2:20):

- Paul's doctrine is rejected (1:15)
- Sound teaching is unwanted (4:3)
- There is an 'itching ear' for what is new (4:3)

('Evil communications corrupt good manners' 1 Cor. 15:33)



What marks the last days

(See 2 Timothy)

Nominal Christians living for 'self'

• Lovers of pleasure more than of God (3:4)

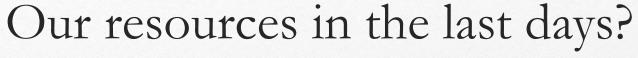
There is no inward reality

• Have a form of piety while denying its power (3:5)

There is no spiritual discernment:

- What is counterfeit is received as genuine (3:8)
- Many are led astray by 'wicked men and juggling imposters' (3:13)



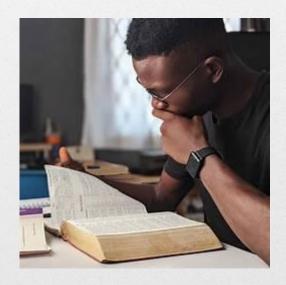


(See 2 Timothy)

- The Word of God (3:14-15)
- **The Spirit of God** (1:7, 14)
- The Grace of God (2:1)

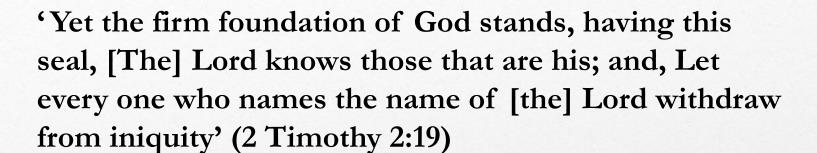
Compare Acts 20:32:

'I commit you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up...'



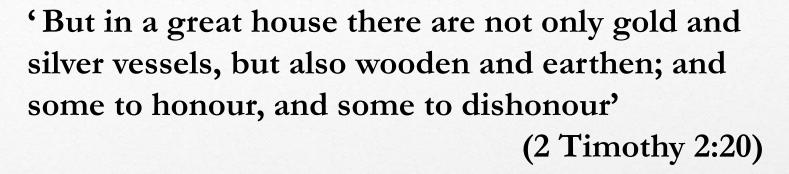






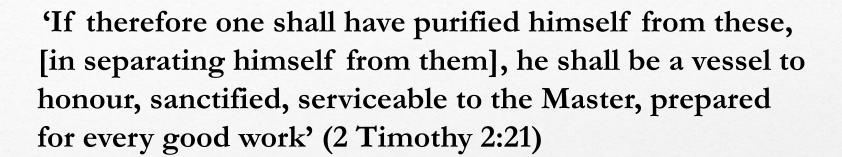
- The foundation on which God is building is stable
- The Lord knows everyone that is His. That is not the issue here
- Our responsibility is to 'withdraw from iniquity'
- Iniquity is 'a condition of not being right... with God according to the standard of His holiness and righteousness' (W. E. Vine)





- We cannot withdraw from the 'great house' because it represents the whole circle of Christian profession
- We are to withdraw from a Christian company where iniquity is tolerated BUT
- Only after every effort has been made to rouse the collective conscience of the company concerned





- Only as separated to the Lord from what dishonours Him are we practically set apart for His pleasure and use
- This illustrates the statement that 'Separation from evil is God's principle of unity'
- We'll look briefly at three passages where separation is expressly called for and any prior appeal to the conscience would be useless



The Call to be Separate

(Revelation 18:4)

'And I heard another voice out of the heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye have not fellowship in her sins, and that ye do not receive of her plagues'

'This applies wherever we see the system to be Babylon, and our sense of her iniquities is pressed upon the conscience' (JND, Synopsis)



Great Babylon: Revelation 17 & 18

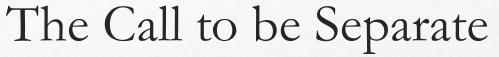
The great harlot... I sit a Queen and I am not a widow (17:1, 18:7): Gross unfaithfulness to Christ

The many waters where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (17:1, 15): **A world-wide reach**

Drunk with the blood of the saints (17:6) A presecutor

Clothed in purple and scarlet with ornaments of gold and precious stones and pearls (17:4): **Oppulent**





(2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

Concerning 'church' fellowship with unbelievers:

'Be not diversely yoked with unbelievers; for what... agreement of God's temple with idols? for ye are [the] living God's temple...'

'Wherefore come out from the midst of them, and be separated, saith [the] Lord, and touch not [what is] unclean, and I will receive you...'



The Call to be Separate

(Hebrews 13:12-13)

'Wherefore also Jesus, that he might sanctify the people by his own blood, suffered without the gate: therefore let us go forth

TO HIM

without the camp, bearing his reproach'

- The Camp is firstly Judaism
- But much of Christendom has 'Judaised'





(Hebrews 13:12-13)

Human Arrangement

- Priesthood and laity
- Pope/ Archbishops
- Consecrated buildings
- Religious Ceremony
- Sensuous

Scriptural Principle

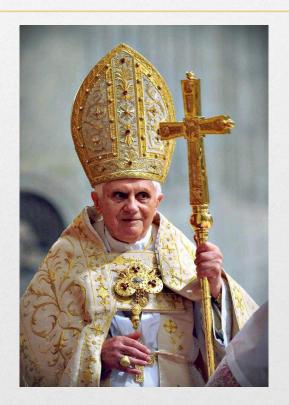
- All believers are priests
- No head on earth
- Christ's Name
- Simplicity
- By faith



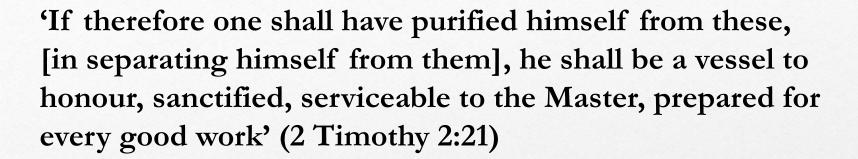
What does it mean to Judaise?

(Hebrews 13:12-13)



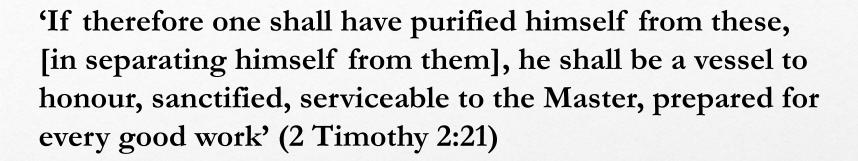






- We have seen the call to separate from human systems of religion and unbelievers.
- But what about a meeting where all are believers?
- Can a believer be a vessel to dishonour?
- Is unjudged iniquity in a believer to be ignored?

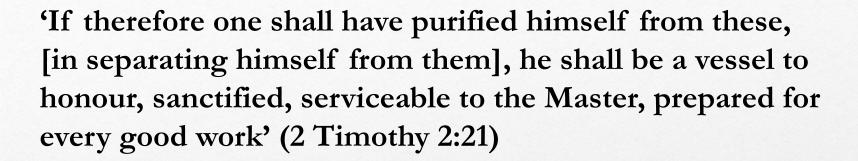




- Here it is a call to separation wherever there is iniquity AND the company concerned refuses to judge it
- The example given is that of Hymenaeus and Philetus
- After mentioning them this section begins, 'YET the firm foundation of God stands...'
- They were teaching that the resurrection had taken place already and overthrew the faith of some







- Hymenaeus is mentioned in the first epistle (1 Tim. 1:20)
- He was a believer whom Paul had delivered to Satan, that he might be taught by discipline not to blaspheme
- Unbelievers do not need to be delivered to Satan; they are already in his hands
- To continue to associate with such is defiling, hence the call to 'purify himself from these'

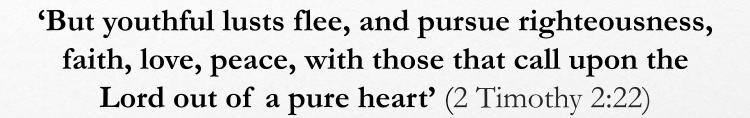






- Shun (keep away from) 'profane vain babblings' (2:16)
- **Depart/Withdraw** 'from iniquity' (2:19)
- Purge/Purify himself (cleanse thoroughly) 'from these' (vessels to dishonour. 2:21)
- Flee (run away from) 'youthful lusts' (2:22)
- Follow/ Pursue 'righteousness, faith, love, peace (2:22)
- Avoid (to refuse, decline) 'foolish and senseless questionings' (2:23)





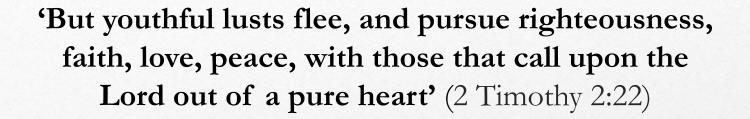
This is a step of faith taken individually

'Calling on the Lord' reflects felt weakness

'Out of a pure heart' shows the only motive is to please the Lord by obeying the Scriptures





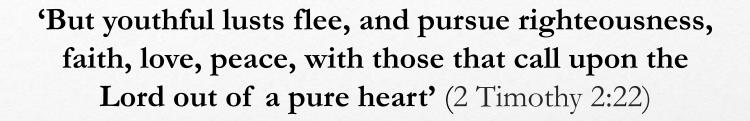


Where the step is rightly taken one can expect to find others similarly exercised and

With them one is to actively pursue: **Righteousness**. What is right in God's sight and so consistent with revealed truth

Faith. The link with God. Everything is done in dependence upon and obedience to Him

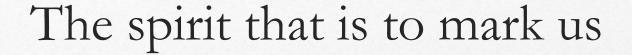




Love. To God and to ALL His children (Hereby know we that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments.' 1 John 5:2)

Peace. 'So then let us pursue the things which tend to peace, and things whereby one shall build up another' (Rom. 14:19)





Contrition

'But to this man will I look: to the afflicted and contrite in spirit, and who trembleth at my word'

(Isaiah 66:1-2)



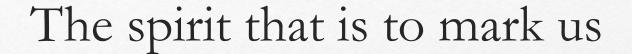


The spirit that is to mark us

Confession

'And... the children of Israel were assembled with fasting... and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers' (Nehemiah 9:1-2)





Confidence

'In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge' (Proverbs 14:26)



