



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

Chapter 2

Bishop Youssef



Introduction

- The theme of chapter 2 is:

The Characteristics of a Faithful Minister

- Making Disciples (1, 2)
- Enduring Servant (3-7)
- Hardships (8-13)
- Diligent Servant (14-19)
- Honored Vessel (20-21)
- Sanctified Servant (22-26)



Making Disciples (1,2)

- The source of power and strength is the grace of God
- Verse 2 supports oral tradition
- The importance of reproducing disciples
- Faithfulness and trustworthiness as prerequisites for service



Enduring Servant (3-7)

- Four principles:
 - ❖ The inevitability of sufferings
 - We should accept and endure suffering
 - ❖ Not to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this world
 - Our purpose is to please God



Enduring Servant (3-7)

- ❖ Lawful strife (according to the rules)
 - ❑ This is the condition for crowning
- ❖ Don't be lazy or lukewarm
 - ❑ It is only the hardworking farmer who will receive of the fruits firstly
- Why do we pray before reading the Bible?



Hardships (8-13)

- The Resurrection of the Lord is the source of our strength
- Seed of David: His humanity, His kingship, the endurance of David
- Chains cannot bind the word of God
- The servant should endure hardships not only for his own salvation but for the salvation of others



Hardships (8-13)

- Fulfilling the ministry is by enduring hardships
- Not only we will be saved from the wrath but also we will be glorified eternally
- If we die with Him (Baptism), we will live with Him



Hardships (8-13)

- If we endure (spiritual warfare) with Him, we will reign with Him
- If we deny Him (by mouth and/or heart), He will deny us
- If we are unfaithful with Him, He will be faithful to His word. He is unchangeable



Hardships (8-13)

- Three things are impossible to God: to die, to lie, and to be deceived (Augustine)
- Comfort is suggested to believers, that He is faithful to His promises to them
- The apostates are shaken out of their self-deceiving belief, that because they change, Christ similarly may change



Diligent Servant (14-19)

- Remind others of these four principles
- Charging them before the Lord not to strive about words
 - ❖ Striving about words does not profit
 - ❖ Rather it produces ruin of the hearers



Diligent Servant (14-19)

- Be diligent to present yourself approved to God not men
 - ❖ As a servant who does not need to be ashamed if his works are not approved by God
 - ❖ As a servant who rightly handles the word of truth



Diligent Servant (14-19)

- Reject profane and vain babblings
 - ❖ For they only increase to more ungodliness
 - ❖ For their message will spread like cancer
 - ❑ Hymenaeus (1 Tim 1:20): After his excommunication he seems to have been readmitted into the Church and again to have troubled it



Diligent Servant (14-19)

- Who have overthrown the foundation of faith of some by saying the resurrection is merely the spiritual raising of souls from the death of sin
- God's solid foundation (His Church: 1Tim 3:15) stands, having this seal of ownership (Holy Myron):
 - The Lord knows (preserve) those who are His (Num 16:5)
 - Let those who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity (Num 16:26)



Honored Vessel (20-21)

- A great house (the visible church) has all kinds of vessels, some for honor and some for dishonor
- If anyone cleanses himself from things of dishonor, he will be a vessel of honor
 - ❖ Sanctified and useful for the Master
 - ❖ Prepared for every good work



Sanctified Servant (22-26)

- How to be a servant useful to the Master:
 - ❖ Flee youthful lusts
 - ❖ Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart
 - ❑ We are to love all men, but it is not possible to be at peace with all men, for this needs oneness of purpose and opinion



Sanctified Servant (22-26)

- Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes that generate strife
- Do not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient
- In meekness correct those in opposition
 - ❑ Perhaps God will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth
 - ❑ Perhaps they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will



Conclusion

- What are the four principles of the enduring servant?
- Why does the servant endure sufferings?
- How do we strengthen ourselves during the time of sufferings?
- What are the characteristics of the diligent servant?
- Why does the foundation of God stand?
- What are the characteristics of the sanctified servant?