

**GOSPEL**  
of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**2 Timothy 2:21-25**  
Essential Virtues  
in Christian Ministry

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**What It Means to Honor God**

**2 Timothy 2:21-22 (NASB)**  
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. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

- 'These things' are what is dishonorable and not suitable for Christian ministry
- Godly preparation cannot be secular

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**Speculations Are Never a Solid Foundation**

**2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NASB)**  
But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

- Speculation is *ze\_te\_sis* (philosophical inquiry)
- When Scripture alone is the ground of Christian teaching we engage in exegesis, not speculation
- We have solid ground to patiently teach

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**Correction Hoping for Repentance**

**2 Timothy 2:25 (NASB)**  
with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

- Rather than speculations and word fights, we must gently correct those who oppose the truth
- The reason for patient instruction is the hope that God will grant repentance (Acts 5:31; 11:18)
- The fruit of repentance is the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4; Titus 1:1-2; 2 Corin. 7:10)

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**Stay Awake and Be Concerned**

**Acts 20:31 (NASB)**  
Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

- Be on the alert is *gregoreo* (22 times in NT)
- This corresponds to the imperative (guard) vs 28
- The dangers are real, be on guard and awake
- Paul's example showed intense, personal teaching and care for each one
- He did not stop or get distracted

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**The Church Is Protected by God**

**Acts 20:32 (NASB)**  
"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- 'Commend' is *paratithemi* which here means to 'entrust them to God for safekeeping' BDAG
- 'Word of His grace' is the gospel and the various implications thereof
- 'Build you up' -- the church is God's building
- 'Inheritance' is *kle\_romomia* (Eph. 1:14; 1 Pt 1:4)

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