

Lent Devotion for Saturday, March 25

2 Timothy 2:14-26

MULTIPLY YOUR PURSUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)...*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

Nearly every household has a junk drawer, a collection of plastic bags, and a cabinet full of plastic storage containers. From time to time I addressed my out-of-control cabinet of plastic storage containers. I wanted all of my containers to be in the best condition and without the lid missing; therefore, I tossed containers if they didn't have a lid or were stained. I was satisfied once all of the containers were separated and sorted, and the most valuable ones set apart. Believers are God's vessels or containers; this passage shows the characteristics of those God sets apart for His highest use; those with coverings and stainless.

In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul writes to Timothy from a jail in Rome. These are Paul's final words to Timothy before Paul's death. Paul emphasizes the need to persevere in the faith, continue in sound doctrine, preach the Word, and pass on what he has learned to others. Paul uses the example of a vessel or container to focus on the character of believers considered unique and most helpful to God. The set-apart containers are believers who pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace out of a pure heart and devote their lives to developing a love of righteousness. Just as Paul reminds Timothy to preserve the faith by reminding believers in Ephesus to pursue holiness, God wants us to do the same today.

You ask, "Why does it matter that I am set apart and holy?" Because God's Kingdom multiplies as citizens are added. Our junk drawers, collection of plastic bags, and cabinets full of plastic storage containers have one thing in common, they all gradually increased until they were overflowing. Still, only some of the things in them were useful. Similarly, God wants a kingdom overflowing with His citizens, but his most valuable citizens are those pursuing righteousness. Today, I encourage you to pursue righteousness out of your pure heart so that you can be counted among God's most useful vessels.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for finding a use for my life despite my flaws as I pursue becoming more like Jesus. Help me to avoid the trappings of pride and ambition as I seek your goodness. May my life bring honor and glory to your name. In Jesus' Name I pray...Amen.