Not Ashamed

2 Timothy 2:14-26

• God's truth requires careful handling – not careless speculation
2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Prov.3:6 “in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Prov.11:5 “The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them”

2:18 – “who have wandered away from the truth.”

2 Tim.2:16-18 “Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.”
• GOD’S TRUTH REQUIRES CAREFUL HANDLING – NOT CARELESS SPECULATION

• GOD’S TRUTH PRODUCES GODLY LIVING – NOT GODLESS ARGUMENTS

a) It is of no value.
b) It ruins those who listen.
c) It makes the hearers more and more ungodly.
d) It will spread like poison.
e) It will destroy the faith of some.
f) It will produce quarrels.

2:23 “Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.”
In v21 - they will be pure; holy; useful; and prepared.
In v22 - they will flee evil, and pursue faith, love, peace and partnerships.
In v23 - they will demonstrate discernment.
In v24 - they will demonstrate kindness and credibility.
In v25 - forgiveness and humility, courage and optimism.

• God’s truth requires careful handling - not careless speculation
• God’s truth produces godly living - not godless arguments

Keep centred on the essentials.

2:14 “Keep reminding God’s people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words.”

2:8 “Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.”
• GOD'S TRUTH REQUIRES CAREFUL HANDLING
  - NOT CARELESS SPECULATION

• GOD'S TRUTH PRODUCES GODLY LIVING
  - NOT GODLESS ARGUMENTS

Keep centred on the essentials.
Remain encouraged by the truth.

2:19 “Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."”

• GOD'S TRUTH REQUIRES CAREFUL HANDLING
  - NOT CARELESS SPECULATION

• GOD'S TRUTH PRODUCES GODLY LIVING
  - NOT GODLESS ARGUMENTS

Keep centred on the essentials.
Remain encouraged by the truth.
Expect God to bring about change.
2:24-26 “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome; but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

Because I am a Christian, therefore, every day in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God’s Word is a lost day for me. I can only move forward with certainty upon the firm ground of the Word of God. And, as a Christian, I learn to know the Holy Scriptures in no other way than by hearing the Word preached and by prayerful meditation.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)