

| **Series Title:** Resilient Faith – Lessons from 2 Timothy |
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| **Weekly Title:** Resilient in Purity |
| **Date:** Sunday November 10 2024 |
| **Bible Passage:** 2 Timothy 2:14 - 35 |
| **Purpose of Preach:** To challenge people be think about and be pure in what that they believe, what they focus on and who they let influence and speak into their life. |
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| **Introduction:**  [Please reference and use the general introduction to the series to remind people the heart and purpose for the series “Resilient Faith” looking at 2 Timothy.]  Last week we looked at the positive decisions we can make in order to be Resilient in Grace. Today we are looking at things we need to avoid in order to be resilient to be resilient in purity. Paul champions Timothy to keep reminding people about the need to be strong and resilient in grace and then he warns him about certain things that could easily hinder him in this. He calls from him to not be distracted and to be pure in his approach to doctrine, focus and friendships. |
| **1. 2:14-19. Pure in DOCTRINE**  Paul tells Timothy to be resilient in purity in the way he handles God’s word.  a) He says in v.16 “avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it, will become more and more ungodly.” In v.18 he says “some have wandered away from the truth”. The word he uses here means to “miss the mark”, like missing the target in archery. People were teaching serious error and Paul says “avoid this godless chatter”. He names Hymenaeus and Philetus as two people who are bringing false teaching into the church by teaching that there is future resurrection and were seriously discouraging and damaging the faith of some.  b) In v.14 Paul says don’t quarrel about words because it is of no value and only ruins those who listen. We need to be resilient in purity when it comes to standing upon God’s word.  In 2 Timothy 2:20-22) Paul uses the metaphor of a "great house" with various vessels to illustrate the different kinds of people in the church. Just as a great house contains items of gold and silver as well as wood and clay, so the church contains a mix of those who honour God and those who do not. This imagery emphasises the need for discernment and the importance of striving for holiness. Just as the homeowner would seek to keep the valuable vessels clean and useful, we are called to maintain purity and truth within the church. Today, there is a similar battle, as we strive to uphold the integrity of our faith amidst a world filled with conflicting beliefs and moral relativism. The challenge remains for each of us to be vessels of honour, committed to living out and preserving the truth of the Gospel.  **Application:** This requires more than passive belief; it demands active engagement in the ongoing battle for doctrinal purity and spiritual integrity. Just as Paul urged Timothy to stand against false teachings and pursue holiness, we too are called to action. But how do we practically engage in this battle?  **Application**  How well do we know the Bible? Do we know God’s word well enough to be able to be pure in doctrine and discern “godless chatter”? |
| **2. 2:23 Pure in FOCUS**  Paul is saying “be resilient in purity by not being distracted and keeping the main thing the main thing”.  a) The word Paul uses here means “useless speculation” or “controversy.”  We know from 1 Timothy 1:4 that people were obsessed and distracted by “myths and endless genealogies”. People were more focused on periphery stuff than with Jesus. They had their own little theological hobby horses which they loved to debate and talk about and it this had become the focus for them rather than Jesus. They are “foolish” because they are speculation or personal opinions rather than rooted in God’s word.  b) There is nothing wrong with debate and thinking things through. It is important and healthy to question and discuss but we must avoid letting anything become more of the focus than Jesus.  Paul encourages Timothy to avoid foolish arguments and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace. He uses his own life as an example of enduring hardship for the sake of the gospel. Paul’s perseverance and integrity demonstrate his unwavering commitment to the truth.  **Application:** Are we living in a way that reflects the truth of the gospel? Are we willing to endure hardships for the sake of Christ? We should draw strength from Jesus and follow Paul’s example by living out the truth with integrity and perseverance. Reflect on how our actions and decisions align with the truth of the gospel in our daily lives. |
| **3. 3:1-5 Pure in FRIENDSHIPS**  Paul says we need to be resilient in purity when it comes to those we allow to speak into and influence our lives.  a) We are called to love all people but that does not mean we let all people get close and influence us. Paul says avoid people whose lives don’t back up what they say. In just three verses he gives 19 characteristics of people he calls in v.5 powerless Christians.  b) He says avoid people who seem very holy but inside they are miles away from Jesus.  Outwardly they seem godly but there was no transforming presence of the Holy Spirit at work within them. They attended church every week, could quote scripture, looked respectable to those around them, perhaps raised their hands in worship and seemed passionate about God….but the reality was they lacked the power of the Holy Spirit, they were not Christians at all. As John Stott puts it: “it was form without power, outward show without inward reality, religion without morals, faith without works.” Paul says to Timothy don’t let these people influence your life, and don’t let them speak into you.  c) Could it be that we need to be more discerning on the people we are letting influence us and speak into our lives.  Are we being diligent in purity when it comes to our close and influential friendships. |
| ***Here are some examples of ways you might want to conclude the message. You could use some or all of them; develop them into different ideas or to fit with the Location***  **Application**  We want to take some time to apply the truths of purity to our lives.  Purity Reflection & Prayer  Take a few moments for personal reflection and prayer using the following:  Examine your heart and mind:   * What beliefs or ideas have you been exposed to lately that you need to test against Scripture? * Where have you found yourself distracted from focusing on Jesus and His Kingdom? * Which relationships have been the most influential in your life recently?   Pray for purity:   * Ask God to reveal any areas where your doctrine, focus, or relationships need to be realigned with biblical truth. * Confess any ways you have been pulled away from purity of heart, mind, and relationships. * Invite the Holy Spirit to empower you to be resilient in guarding your purity.   Make a plan:   * Commit to specific steps you will take this week to strengthen your biblical foundation. * Decide how you will refocus your time and energy on the main thing - Jesus. * Identify any relationships that may need to change or boundaries that need to be set for the sake of your purity.   Pray together - God to help you remain resilient in purity, grounded in His Word, centered on Christ, and discerning in your relationships. Ask Him to produce in you the fruit of purity that will strengthen your faith.  Take a few minutes now to reflect, pray, and write down your next steps.  **Story from prayer partners - Open Doors. Pray for the persecuted church. *This example can be used within the sermon.***  In the Malay community in Sumatra, Indonesia, if you’re not Muslim then you’re not considered a ‘proper Malay’. It is the biggest barrier for people to come to Christ. “But what seems tough  is not impossible,” says Rudi\*, a mission worker supported by Open Doors.  “Jesus desires for the Malay people to know Him because He loves them. And I am here for that reason.”  Rudi’s ministry to the Sumatra Malay tribe began in 2015. “One of the most effective methods is to show them that we care about them,” he says. “That’s why my ministry motto is PCS – pray, care and share. Demonstrating God’s love opens the doors to evangelise people.”  One of the ways Rudi shows this love is through helping stroke victims. “I spend time  with them regularly and share that God’s Word can heal,” he says. “I am using a discipleship  course, from the book of Genesis until Jesus - His birth, His suffering, His death, His resurrection  and His return.”  Please pray:  » For house churches to be planted in this community, where there are none  » That God will raise up believers among Malay people in Sumatra to be His witnesses  » For the stroke patients Rudi serves to receive God’s healing and offer of salvation. |