

## "Prepared" - 2 Timothy 2:21-22, Part 1 of 2

### *2 Timothy 2:21-22*

*21 So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

Intro

Mark - Well, good morning,

Toni - Good morning.

Mark - What a beautiful Monday morning in Austin.

Toni -It is.

Mark ...and this week is...

Toni -...the week of Thanksgiving.

Mark - Yeah, as we begin to wind down this long and fruitful trek we've been on about the topic of peace in the Bible - and truly it would take us years to explore every reference and every intimation and variation of the topic of peace - but I thought this morning we would look at 2 Timothy 2:22... "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." What do you think?

Toni - I think we should go back one verse and set this up by seeing that he stipulates it - "Anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work."

Mark - Okay, this is verse 21...

Toni - ... Going to the original, it says: "Consequently" - that's the "so" ... -**oûn**. Consequently, if in the case of "anyone", and this is the word **tis**, which is just a pronoun that means "a certain one". Consequently, in the case, if a certain one "purifies", this word is at **ekkathairō**, which means "to cleanse thoroughly". But I like it when you take it back to the original roots, because it's a compound word that means, **ek** - means "out of, from, or away from".

Toni - The second part of that is **kathairō**, which means "filth, and impurity". So it's the same idea as pruning a tree, or a vine from useless shoots, or to expiate someone from guilt - if you can take them away and out of a filthy situation, or simply take away the useless things in their life. So, that is "purifies". "Himself", herself, itself - which is **heautoû** -

Mark - Okay

Toni - From, and that is **apó**, which means "of separation", again, "taking away, or out of", "anything". If you take these things that he needs separation from... the word "dishonorable" is not in the original.

Toni - You're taking away the useless things, taking a person away from things that are not clean, not advisable, or good for him, or anyone else. Then -

Mark - Truly, so far we have, "So, if anyone purifies himself..."

Toni - Yes, "he will be" - *ésomai*. And, it's exactly what it says, "to be". He will be a special - *timé* - "a valuing by which the price is fixed, and the honor that belongs to that being that has the fixed price." So obviously something that's a great value, of great worth. And this is from a word, *tínō*, which means "to pay, recompense, to pay penalty, or even suffer punishment", which is a little hard to see in this context. But, basically, we're saying that "there is a specific worth placed".

Toni - So he will be of a specific worth, and and he will be "an implement, or vessel" - *skeûos* - which means exactly that. It means either "a tool", or a metaphor frequently used in the Greek for "the body", because it was believed that the soul lived temporarily in the vessel of the body. This is saying his - "he will in his entirety, hold some special worth". He - and of course, I'm saying "he", but it means "she" is *hagiázō*...

Mark - Yeah, we've seen that quite a bit...

Toni - We have seen that a lot, and it means "to render, or acknowledge, to separate from profane things, to be consecrated".

Mark - Yeah, so in the Holman, this is "set apart". But the same word - I think it's been for the root of it - has comes back to "holy" quite a bit.

Toni - Yes, I believe you're right. And we'll go to the root. Yes, it is "most holy thing", and it also is *hágios*. This "venerable, holy person" who is a special vessel for containing worth to the master. Useful is the word *eúchrēstos*, which means "easy to make useful". So, not just useful - but readily useful.

Mark - Yeah, that's's great. I love that.

Toni - To be well off, to fare well, to prosper, to act well...

Mark - it just gives me the word picture of being "easy to call upon in any situation".

Toni - And, interestingly enough, part of that root comes from *chrēstós*, which actually means "mild and pleasant". Okay, so someone who is manageable, kind, someone who's fit for use, and that indicates that they're virtuous, that they're going to be sensitive to someone's request or needs.

Mark - Yeah, you've had in your career and business - just like I have over many years - people that you just could call on, and you would call them - whether the task at hand was in there specific job description, or not. When you really needed something, there were people that you would call on..

Toni - ...and they always rise to the occasion.

Mark - Yeah, and because they were just going to say, "OK, how can we get this done?" They were eager to be useful, and this so reminds me of that. There's one thing to be a special instrument. You're really gifted at something, but "difficult". And it's another thing to be - maybe not as naturally gifted - but willing, and eager to be of use,

Toni - Right, So, one aspect of that - being easy to use is to be accessible. It's really hard to use anything that's not accessible. I can have a favorite pair of scissors in the house, but I can't find them. If they're not always in the same place, then there are no use to me. And, I believe there are people in this world who make themselves accessible, and there people who do not. They're just hard to reach. This is really interesting, because you've got to bring something of worth to the table, and you've got to be pulled away

from all the things that are negative, and detractors in terms of your worth and your mindset.

Mark - Absolutely.

Toni - And then you have to be easy to use, and accessible. And these are all in terms of how we are toward God.

Mark - Yeah, this is useful to -

Toni - "useful to the Master". And this Master is **despótēs**, which means Master and Lord. I'm sure we took the word "despot" from it, but, of course, we do not see our God as a despot - far from it. It perhaps comes from a root word **déō**, which means to bind, or tie, to fasten. There are a lot of examples of this, but I think the more important place to concentrate is that when we bind ourselves to God, through spirit, through belief, through conviction. So: useful, manageable, accessible, easy to use - to our Lord and Master

Toni - Then, the last part of this verse is **hetoimázō**, which is "to make ready, to prepare." It is drawn from - there's a metaphor about this word drawn from "the Oriental custom of sending someone on before kings on their journeys to level the road and make it passable". And even to "prepare the minds of men, to give the Messiah a fit reception and secure His blessing".

Toni - It is definitely a and making-ready process. And, don't we have to do this in order to make ourselves opportune and seasonable. I see it as the "shaping of the mindset", and a "tilling of the soil", so to speak, in preparing our hearts emotionally, to be open, and to receive marching orders.

Mark - Right.. yeah...

Toni - But it's not always marching orders. Sometimes it's the slightest tap. Sometimes it's the softest whisper, and so you have to be ready for any one of those means, and reactive. And that's another word that we haven't talked about here. But if you're prepared for a good work, you are highly reactive. You're ready for anything and already ready to be manageable, to be obedient.

Mark - If you're so consumed with your own agenda, it's very difficult to be available for that "nudge". And it doesn't have to be a grand work, right? I mean, there was nudge this morning about something we've already talked about - to call a guy that is in a support role for someone that's in grief. And, that was a nudge. That's how that works. Have I got a full schedule today? Absolutely. Do I want to get into a long conversation? Absolutely not.

Toni - It's a mindset and heartset that is necessary and preparatory for the pursuit of that litany of things that can be so trite, because we see them so often in Scripture. But we need to never allow them to be trite, and we'll get in that into that tomorrow. But this is preparation for pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace.

Mark - And, so - we're on "prepared"...

Toni - After prepared, which we covered very carefully - prepared "toward" or prepared "unto" - "every", and this is our word *pâs* - "individually, and collectively" - every good - *agathós* - a "good nature". Again, "useful, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, excellent, distinguished, upright and honorable" - "works" that fall into all of those categories- *érgon*, which is *ergo*, which means "to work". It is "the business, employment, the occupation, the product that we accomplish"... what we have to show for the work that we do. And preparing for this excellent, distinguished, honorable deed that God may call upon us to do... preparing us for a holy task.

Mark - Thank you so much. This is a verse that was preceding the one that we had picked. But we're not going to get into the one that we picked this morning, because this is so incredibly rich. I'd like to read it again. "So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master prepared for every good work." It's a beautiful IF-THEN statement. The IF is "if one purifies himself", and the THEN is such a beautiful promise - "he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work." And I know your heart, and I think you know mine - that, to be useful is our heart's cry.

Toni - It definitely is. And one of the things - simply because I use the word "holy task" - that sounds a little awesome, a little, perhaps even, off-putting in terms of: which of us will be ever considered to be up to a holy task? But, I'm going to get back and stress - this used the word *pâs*, "individually and collectively" - every, every good work - which is anything from picking up that phone to make a phone call, to packing your bags and going on mission. So, everything in between - it is the smallest to the largest task, and we need to be very mindful and aware of that.

Mark - That's a great point. Thank you very much. So today I'm going to really meditate upon - you mentioned "mindset" - because I sure want to be a special instrument set apart and useful to the Master.

Toni - And make that phone call.

Mark - Yeah, well, thank you. Thank you so much for this.

Toni - Have a beautiful day.