

*Series:* The Essential Church; *Sermon:* **Follow the House Rules;**  
*Delivered by* **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on July 14, 2019

***Bible text explored: 2 Timothy 2:20–26***

<sup>20</sup>Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. <sup>21</sup>Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

<sup>22</sup>So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup>Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup>And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup>correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. [ESV]

***Review and application:***

*In today's passage Paul uses two images to help Timothy discern what to focus on in order to be used by God to make a difference.*

1. The first image (vv. 20-22) is of containers in a well-furnished home: some suitable for serving fine meals, others for taking out the garbage. How did the false teaching of Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim 2:17-18) make them unsuitable for serving guests?  
What are some false teachings of our day which, if embraced by us, would disqualify us from being "honorable vessels"?
2. What did Timothy need to pursue to assure that the Master could use him to bless others?  
From what did he need to flee?
3. The second image Paul used (vv. 23-26) is of a servant. Why should he not allow himself to get side-tracked by arguments over non-essentials?  
What qualities does a servant need in order to deal with difficult people who oppose him?
4. What adjustments might you need to make in order to endure evil patiently and to treat your opponents with kindness?  
What is the positive outcome that Paul sees God as able to achieve in response to persistent, gentle truth-teaching?