

THE TWELVE STEPS TO A FANTASTIC FINISH

II Timothy 2:14-19

Step Number Six - FOCUSED: This One Thing I Do

We are trying to make a fantastic finish.
And we are studying 2 Timothy and it is a wonderful personal letter.

Thus far we have discussed:

Step #1: INTEGRITY: Getting It All Together (2 Tim. 1:1-7)

The first thing that you must do is establish a foundation of integrity that begins with a personal relationship to Jesus Christ. That foundation of integrity is getting it all together.

That leads us to the step of conviction.

Step #2: CONVICTION: Here I Stand, God Help Me (2 Tim. 1:8-12)

As we read the Bible we form convictions, therefore, I stand, God help me.

Then we move to courage.

Step #3: COURAGE: I Am Willing To Pay The Price (2 Tim. 1:13-18)

I am willing to pay the price for these convictions whatever the cost.

Step #4: LEGACY: What Am I Passing On? – To the next generation. (2 Tim. 2:1-7)

Perseverance last week.

Step #5: PERSEVERANCE: In Single-Minded Steadfastness, I Will Stay The Course (2 Tim. 2:8-13)

Now we come to the most critical one:

Step #6: FOCUSED: This One Thing I Do (2 Tim. 2:14-19)

Our key verse today is verse 15 and if you have ever done an inductive study, you do it with the whole book first before you break it down into parts.

You try to find the key verse to the whole book before you break it down and then you take each study and come up with key verses for the studies.

It just happens that the key verse to the whole book is in today's study as well as being the key verse for this particular study so that makes it very important.

It is the heart of this little epistle.

So we will look at 2 Timothy 2:15 shortly.

Now, when you think about being focused, what comes to your mind?

Here are a few more thoughts to help us:

1. Single-minded
2. Determined
3. Zeroing in on one thing.

You are saying:

1. I am fine-tuned
2. I am taking aim.

Focus means:

1. I am organized.
2. I am proceeding toward a definite goal.

Well, I pulled open the computer dictionary and I came up with this definition:

Focused: *adjective*

1. Concentrated: concentrated on a single thing
2. Single-minded: single-minded and determined

Yogi Berra said a lot of funny things and this is one of his quotes, "If you don't know where you're going, you will wind up somewhere else."

A lot of Christians are doing that.

When you find yourself late in the game it is really necessary, if you are going to make a fantastic finish, to narrow everything down.

People resist this.

It is like their relationship with the Lord is a performance basis.

And if you are getting close to the goal, you want to do a whole lot more late in the game.

And that is not the Biblical principle of a fantastic finish.

By now you should know a lot of things you ought not to be spending your time on.

And at this stage of the game Paul is saying we ought to be narrowed down to the one thing we are going to do.

Therefore, if we are going to leave a legacy and if we are going to hear “Well done, thy good and faithful servant,” it is going to be because we were on track and we are focused on the one thing.

Henry David Thoreau said, “In the long run men hit only what they aim at.” And the secret of this particular study is to become a person who is focused.

Can I give you a couple of verses?

These verses come from Ecclesiastes. This first one I just love.

Eccl. 5:20: “*He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.*”

“*He seldom reflects on the days of his life because*” he is so excited when he gets up in the morning because he is fulfilling his passion.

The excitement, the passion, the thrill is there.

And I am saying that is possible, and is absolutely necessary, in view of the fact that we want to make a fantastic finish.

Eccl. 11:10: “*So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.*”

Now let me just clarify.

When I am talking about focus today, I am not talking about what was, I am talking about what will be.

The focus is on the future, not on the past.

When you focus on the past you have a pity party over “those were the good old days” and it is not that way anymore.

Then you focus on the present and you are just trying to keep your head above water.

But when you move your focus toward the future and you get the Father's prospective of what it is going to be like to finish your life and your journey down here, then you are focused where we need to be today. It is focusing on that one thing.

Now are there any illustrations in the Bible of people who are really focused?

Nehemiah felt the call of God to build the walls. It took him 52 days to organize the whole thing and they built the walls around Jerusalem.

Let's hit about three or four verses before we get into the text.

The first passage that I want to mention to you is Hebrews 12:1 and 2.

And you're thinking, I know that.

Okay but listen to it in this context.

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us."

What is the writer saying?

"Laying aside every encumbrance" is the stuff you are weighted down with that you ought to strip away and say no.

Or cut it out of your life because it is a habit that does not fit your focus.

And you say, "hey that has to go, that is an *encumbrance*."

And, along with that, the sin in your life that the Spirit of God convicts you about,

cut it out, get rid of it then you are ready for a fantastic finish, you are ready to get focused.

Do you remember, that Solomon fell in love with Shulammitte and the little book *The Song of Solomon* is the story of their love diary.

When their love begins to blossom and grow you hear a common commitment from the two of them in Song of Solomon 2:15.

Do you remember what they said to each other?

“Let us catch the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are beginning to bloom.”

They realized that in their relationship, like everybody's relationship, you have to commit yourself

to catching foxes that are going to ruin the relationship and the potential for that relationship and if you do not take the steps to catch the foxes, while this is in bloom you will never have any fruit.

And so they are making this commitment and that is what part of this is.

Paul, when he writes to the Philippians, says in Phil. 3:12-14:

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.”

One more verse. Psalm 27:4:

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

I have a question for you.

What is the one thing the Lord desires to accomplish through you, ensuring a fantastic finish?

We need to discover what that is and then we need to get focused on the full accomplishment of it.

That will solve so many problems that you and I have with the culture.

The reason it will is because we are focused on the spiritual things instead of the distractions that the devil puts out there for us.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer died in prison as a result of Hitler German's regime.

And he writes in his letters and papers from prison this great statement,

“The essence of chastity is not the suppression of lust, but the total orientation of one's life toward a goal.” Why are Christian men today struggling everyday with the suppression of trying to maintain chastity in this crummy culture?

It is because they are vulnerable.

They have not focused yet.

Those things will go off of you like water off a duck's back once you get the focus

because you are consumed every day

with pleasing the Lord and doing

what he wants you to do in order to make

a fantastic finish and that is what makes life

so joyful and so sweet.

Now Timothy, you are getting ready to take over.

The old midnight oil is burning in that holding cell. Paul is praying every night, “Timothy, I hope the postman gets this letter to you and you get it

and you pack your bags and you get back here before I die.

I want to see you one more time.

But if I do not, these are the things that I must tell you” as he scrolls out those words by flickering candlelight every evening so that this letter can get on its way.

That brings us to verse 14, our first verse in today’s study.

Now verses 14, 15, and 16 are three commands.

You can write out in front of each of those verses:

V. 14 The first command has to do with ministry.

V. 15 The second command has to do with the man himself and that is where we are going to land when it comes to focus.

V. 16 And the third one has to do with the menace, the struggle you are going to have in your ministry.

First of all, verse 14, what is your ministry young Timothy?

“These things be reminding them, charging them in the presence of God not to be disputing about words, which results in not even one useful thing, in addition to ruining the ones who are hearing.”

He says, Timothy, please, do not get involved with these guys who just want to fight over every word. How much of Christendom today is filled with the interpretation of words and the changing and slanting of things in order to promote another doctrine that the overall divine revelation will not sustain.

It is tragic and we let those things constantly drain us. Notice that *“these things be reminding them,”* that is a present imperative.

You have learned enough in these classes that the present imperative means you do this every day.

It is like Timothy your number one ministry is to be telling people.

It is precept upon precept, it is concept upon concept, you tell them, you tell them, you tell them, you told them, you keep telling them. And Paul followed that example. It says in Phil. 3:1: *“Finally my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.”*

I am doing it so you will remember it.

And then isn't it interesting that when Peter gets ready to throw in the towel and he is writing his last epistle, in 2 Peter 1:12 and 13 he says, *“Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder.”*

I am telling you and telling you so you will be changed as a result of getting that nailed down.

V. 14 *“Do not be disputing about words”*; be discoursing on the word of God itself.

You see if the devil can get us disputing and fighting over words then we are not discoursing on the word of God and allowing it to work in the lives of our hearers.

Notice the two things that are negative in that verse. Well, there is really a negative and a positive but both of them have negative results in a way.

As a result of “*disputing about words,*”

what is the negative? “*Not even one useful thing.*”

You are not going to get any benefit from doing that. Nobody is going to be blessed.

The positive really is a negative, isn't it?

It upsets the ones who are hearing.

It is a catastrophe.

He says when you start doing this you are really hurting the steps toward maturity of young believers by just being so bullheaded and dogmatic and unbendable.

And you are *disputing over words* when you ought to be concerned about the spiritual well being of those who are hearing and to share.

One Greek commentator translated this verse this way.

“Charging them in the presence of the Lord not to wage thoroughly useless word battles which upsets the listeners. They become spiritually ruined as a result of what they are witnessing. Do not become word warriors because there is nothing useful and it upsets the ones who are listening.”

Proverbs 20:3: *“It is an honor for a man to stay out of a fight. Only fools insist on quarreling.”*

Here is a piece of cowboy wisdom that you will want to always remember.

**“Never get in a spittin’ match with a skunk.
Even if you win, you come out smelling bad.”**

**Do you remember when Paul said goodbye
to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20
he said the wolves are going to come in
and they are going to destroy everything
I have been teaching you?
Well, they are there and they are doing their damage and
Timothy is going to have to warn them.**

**And to do that, he has to keep the people on track,
by constantly reminding them of the dangers of getting into
this stuff and the importance of staying on track.**

**What is the key to the whole thing?
This is a great verse. Verse 15: *“Make every effort to present
yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to
be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”***

**Now since it is the key verse to this study,
let’s talk about it. *“Make every effort to present yourself to
God, approved.”*
You see, it is possible for us to be sitting here today saying we
have made a presentation to God
and it is not approved because he looks on the heart and we
only look on the outside.**

**Is God satisfied with your presentation,
the commitment of yourself?
Remember Romans 12:1 and 2?**

He tells the Romans, *“I urge you, brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*

That is what we need to do.
And the thing that you need to remember,
is that when you make a presentation,
you are either going to get a stamp of approval
from the Lord
or a stamp of being ashamed
because he realizes the heart
does not really mean
what the lips are saying
and he knows that because he looks on the heart.

“Make every effort to present yourself to God approved” with a passionate desire that the presentation will be approved by Him and that the best step we can make toward making a fantastic finish.

Notice the negative and the positive there.
First of all, Paul gives us an illustration.
He says do this *“accepted as a workman.”*
“Make every effort to present yourself approved.”
An illustration, *“as a workman.”*
When your work is examined in the quality of it,
it is either approved because you have carefully
taken care of everything necessary
to get the job done right
(this is especially true in construction)
and so there is approval by the homeowner
that you did a good job
or you are ashamed as a builder
because the plumbing does not work,

the electrical does not work,
and the place is sagging and falling apart.

And Paul says, you know, that is the choice.
Then he says, *“Make sure that what you do in your presentation is approved by God and as a workman who does not need to be ashamed.”*

And, positively, here it is, this is the whole heart of today's study,
“Guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”

“Guiding the word of truth along a straight path” means that by your life and by your lip,
you are living divine revelation
but you are communicating divine revelation
so people can understand it.

That is the single focus.
If you are going to make a fantastic finish,
you have to get your focus on the book.
It is the key to the finish. Verse 15 paraphrased,
Giving myself fully and completely as a workman who studies diligently the word of God, young Timothy, this is what I want from you and I want you to guide the truth along a straight path.

The Living Bible has a paraphrase of 1 Cor. 9:24, 27.
“I run straight for the goal with purpose in every step.”

Everything I am doing is focused on
“guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”

The centrality of the word is the key

to a fantastic finish.

If there is one legacy you want to leave,
if there is one thing that you want people
to know about you, it is that you are a man
or a woman of the book and that you live in it,
you are consumed by it, and with your friends
you communicate it.

Here is a little poem called *A Sad Choice*.

On the table side by side;
A Holy Bible and the TV Guide,
One is well worn but cherished with pride,
(Not the Bible, but the TV Guide).
One is used daily to help folks decide,
No! It isn't the Bible; it's the TV Guide.
As pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh, what does matter, turn on the TV.
So they open the book in which they confide
(No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide).
The Word of God is seldom read,
Maybe a verse as they fall into bed.
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, but watching TV.
So, then back to the table, side by side,
Is the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
No time for prayer, no time for the Word;
The plan for salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin so full and free
Is found in the Bible, not on TV!!

You know I was so blessed when I read
in his inaugural address what Woodrow Wilson said
as the 28th President of the United States.

“There are a good many problems before the American people today, and before me as President, but I expect to find the solution of those problems just in the proportion that I am faithful in the study of the Word of God. I ask every man and woman . . . that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great book.”

When Elizabeth Barrett fell in love with Robert Browning her folks did not approve of the relationship. She longed so badly for them to respond. She wrote at least one or two letters a week to her folks.

Ten years later she received a huge box in the mail and it was all the letters that she had written and all of them were unopened.

The Lord has given us a precious love letter in the word of God.

And how can we name the name of Christ without daily opening this love story and getting focused on it. The single goal, the single focus, the most important thing in the world is to be

“guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”

What does that do for you?

Well, the Bible says in Isaiah 53:6,

“all we like sheep have gone astray and turned everyone to his own way.”

When you *“guide the word of truth along a straight path”* it confronts the problem of sin.

You know, really think seriously now.
If this is the focus, the single focus and I
put all my energies to bear on the single focus,
what is going to come from that?
Everything else in the other twelve steps.
They will fall in line under the single focus
of “*guiding the word of truth along a straight path.*”

Barbara Johnson says some funny things.
Her little devotional book is called *Boomerang Joy*.
And she said this:

“As you dream, keep in mind these ABCs:

Aim high.
Believe in God.
Consider your options
Don't give up.
Enrich your soul.
Find faith in doubt.
Go for the grace.
Hang on.
Ignore discouragement.
Just let Jesus!
Keep trying.
Love life.
Make merry.
Never say, “I can't.”
Open your mind.
Pray hard.
Quit whining.
Read the Bible.
Stay strong.
Take on the challenge.

Understand the obstacles.
Value virtue.
Wait patiently.
Accelerate hope.
Yield to the Holy Spirit.
Zero in on joy.”

And Ecclesiastes 5:20 is going to start becoming yours because you are passionate with that.

Let’s move on to verse 16.
What was verse 14? Ministry.
What is verse 15? Focusing on the man.
Verse 16 focuses on the menace.
Here is the problem.
We had a little bit of it in verse 14
but here it comes again.

Verse 16 *“But be avoiding profane, empty talk; for they will make further progress in ungodliness.”*

What did we learn in verse 14?
Disputing about words does not accomplish one useful thing.
It is ruining everybody who is hearing.

Now he says they make further progress into ungodliness and verse 17 says,
“And their word will spread as does cancer.”
The word in verse 16 is godless chatter,
it is empty babbling.
It does not accomplish anything.

And the tragedy of error is that it spreads
like cancer in a body.

It is a disease.

Verse 17 *“And their word will spread as does cancer. Of whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus.”*

Here are two guys.

Hymenaeus was in 1 Timothy and Paul told him that he needed to quit preaching.

He was preaching things that were not Biblical.

He did not get his lesson because here he is back in 2 Timothy still doing the same thing.

We do not know anything about Philetus but he obviously was one of them.

And you can understand their error in verse 18.

Let's look at that a little more closely.

Verse 18 *“Who missed the mark concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they are upsetting the faith of some.”*

What are they doing?

They are saying you guys are just wasting your time down here.

“The resurrection has already taken place”

and you missed it.

It is like they, *“missed the mark concerning the truth.”*

What is the difference between them and the focus we are learning in verse 15?

We are *“guiding the word of truth along a straight path”* aren't we?

That is our focus.

What are they doing?

They shout their own truth but it *“missed the mark concerning the truth.”* because it was not the truth.

And “*they are upsetting the faith of some.*”
That is tragic.

Mark Twain said, “The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but that they know so many things that ain’t so.”

They have become sidetracked into the wrong things.

Let’s land on a powerful note today.

If you are single-focused on “*guiding the word of truth along a straight path,*” what is exciting?

Verse 19, what a great way to wrap this up.

We always look forward to the “neverthelesses.” Why? Verse 19 “*Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this inscription: ‘The Lord knows those who are His, and let everyone who is naming the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.’*”

Sure, people are being ruined by false teaching.

They are progressing more and more toward ungodliness and following the disease of error and they are missing the mark of truth and upsetting the faith of others but the firm foundation of God still stands.

Do you remember what the Lord said to Peter?

“*Upon this rock I am going to build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.*”

It is like a rock and it has two inscriptions on it.

And the two inscriptions basically are:

1. Your heritage. “*The Lord knows those who are His.*”

He knows you. And if you know him, you belong to him, and you are his. We are not our own. We have been bought with a price.

2. Our holiness. *“Everyone who is naming the name of the Lord abstains from wickedness.”*
We are His and we are holy.

That is how we address the culture and that is how we are characterized.

Many times a verse like this seems confusing when you first look at it and comes alive when you see the Old Testament concept.

What did Paul have in mind when he wrote this?
I think Numbers 16.
Let’s look at Numbers 16 so you recognize it.
Keep thinking, *“The Lord knows those are His and he knows those who are holy.”*

Numbers 16:1-7: *“Korah . . . and certain Reubenites . . . became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, ‘You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?’ When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. Then he said to Korah and all his followers: ‘In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he*

chooses he will cause to come near him. You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers and tomorrow put fire and incense in them before the Lord. The man the Lord chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!”

Oh, I love the way he leads.

Numbers 16:19-21: *“When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, (this is the next morning) the glory of the Lord appeared to the entire assembly. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once.’”*

Moses and Aaron just pleaded, do not do that, there are just a few people who are involved. And so, in essence, the Lord said move away from the tents of these wicked men.

Numbers 16:28-30: *“Then Moses said, ‘This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea: If these men die a natural death and experience only what usually happens to men, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the grave, then you will know that these men have treated the Lord with contempt.’”*

As soon as he finished talking, guess what?

The earth opened up and swallowed the whole nine yards and fire came out from heaven and destroyed 250 guys standing there with fire in their censers waiting to have acceptance to their sacrifice.

The powerful lesson is the Lord knows those who are His and He knows those who are holy. And nevertheless it still stands.

You always have to remember, no matter how bad it gets, you have a solid rock and on that solid rock the world is just beating itself to death against it.

I became so excited I had to get my hymnbook out. "On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand."

What a great hymn!

You know, Rachel, when she died in the Columbine massacre, she was a songwriter. And she wrote this little song that is part of her legacy:

Break me of my pride, Oh God,
Tear down my string of sins,
This life of filth and worthlessness,
Unto You I willingly give.
Take it from me, all of it,
Do with it what You will.
Take me and mold me God,
Your foundation, begin to build.

My life has brought me only shame,
Through it Your Will be done,
What once was sorrow and endless blame,

Now the start of things to come.
My story now a testimony,
A thing nothing short of God,
I keep His Name forever holy,
For my life, with His blood, is bought.

Winston Churchill, for the last time he challenged the country in World War II. He said, “What is our aim?”
I can answer in one word: It is victory,
victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory,
however long and hard the road may be;
for without victory there is no survival.”
The process of getting focused is going to
lead you and me to victory.

Bruce Wilkinson prays that beautiful prayer:

*“I humble myself before Your holiness.
I enter Your courts and ask for Your grace and mercy.
I am in a time of real need; I plead for Your help.
Please help me!
I want to obey Your command to cleanse myself of all sin.
I want to become holy as You are holy in all of my
conduct.
I want to please You and make a new start in my life.”*

Howard Hendricks celebrated 50 years at Dallas Theological Seminary as a professor, listen to what he said:

“It’s been 50 years now since God transplanted me from the pulpit to the classroom, and I have the urge to pass along a few

keys to making it all worthwhile and fulfilling. I think they are ripe for sharing, so let me start with the foundation of them all . . . FOCUS.

(F-O-C-U-S, in big capital letters.)

“Paul said, “*One thing I do*” . . . (Phil 3:13). . . .

Dr. A.W. Tozer says, “What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.”

Jesus told Martha that . . . “*only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*” (Luke 10:42).

That tells me that I have to make tough choices.

So many ‘goods’ and ‘betters’

have to be discarded in favor of

the *one thing*

The secret of concentration is elimination.

In Don Anderson’s book *Drawing Closer, Growing Stronger* there is a story that helps us understand that you have to get focused now because you do not know how long you have.

“Jean awakened from a deep sleep and realized it was time to meet with her first love, the Lord Jesus. She turned toward Charles, her husband of forty-four years and whispered: ‘Good morning, sweetheart!’

Later in her quiet time she read, “*Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.’*”

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a while and then vanishes away” (James 4:13-15).

“Jean could have endlessly mused about her sixty-seven years. How good God had been! After leaving Decatur, Texas, she had met Charles at Wheaton College in Illinois. His contagious enthusiasm ignited her life with joy. He meant everything to her.”

“His tireless energy propelled them as a couple through his training in dental school, five years of medical missionary service in the Belgium Congo, and into his professorship of Dental Radiology at a major university.”

“As a supportive wife, Jean, also a registered nurse, conscientiously balanced her career with mothering their four daughters. Remembering the death of one infant daughter often brought tears, but Jean remained steadfast in faith throughout life’s trials.”

“As a bold intercessor, Jean often prayed for the lost and dying, especially in India. She prayed for the hill-country pastors whom she and Charles had met four months earlier while visiting the Hindustan Bible Institute.”

“The morning passed quickly as Charles called Jean to breakfast. They prayed together, ate quickly, and hastily prepared for an engagement to complete the paperwork for their Social Security benefits.

“Heavy freeway traffic almost detained them,

but they arrived just in time for their 9:00 A.M. appointment on April 19, 1995, at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

“Welcome home my children.”

There are 12 lessons that come out of this study.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Do not focus on what was but on what will be.

LESSON #2: “Do not focus on what you do not have, focus on what you do have and be grateful for it.” (Joan Lunden).

LESSON #3: The essence of chastity is not the suppression of lust, but the total orientation of one's life towards a goal.”
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

LESSON #4: Lord, keep me from getting distracted by “disputing about words” (verse 14).

LESSON #5: Have you ever made a presentation of yourself to God with no strings attached, total commitment without reservation?

LESSON #6: In order to make a fantastic finish, it is absolutely necessary to be in the “word of truth” on a daily basis (verse 15).

LESSON #7: It is required that a fantastic finisher is well acquainted with the contents of the Bible before he takes his finals.

LESSON #8: Can you say that you are focused on the “word of truth” and this one thing I do? (verse 15).

LESSON #9: False teaching progresses toward greater “ungodliness” and “spreads as does cancer” (verses 16 & 17).

LESSON #10: Do you know for sure that you are His and that you are progressively being made more holy?

LESSON #11: Have you deviated from the “truth”? (verse 18).

LESSON #12: “Lord, grant that whatever I may need to lay aside to fulfill Your will may not be seen as a sacrifice, but rather as the pathway to true achievement.”

**STUDIES IN THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO
TIMOTHY**

“The Twelve Steps to a Fantastic Finish”

Key verse 2:15 — *“Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”*

STEP NUMBER SIX – Focused: This One Thing I Do

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Key verse 2:15

Notes

v. 14 These things be reminding them, charging them in the presence of God not to be disputing about words, which results in not even one useful thing, in addition to ruining the ones who are hearing.

v. 15 Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.

v. 16 But be avoiding profane, empty talk; for they will make further progress in ungodliness.

v. 17 And their word will spread as does cancer. Of whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

v. 18 who missed the mark concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they are upsetting the faith of some.

v. 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are His, and let everyone who is naming the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.”

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19 and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.
2. What is Timothy asked to do, according to verse 14?
3. What is the result of disputing over words, according to verse 14?
4. What is Timothy asked to do, according to verse 15?
5. What is Timothy asked to do, according to verse 16?
6. Describe what is taking place in verse 18.
7. What happens to God's "foundation," according to verse 19?
8. What are those who are naming His name supposed to do, according to verse 19?
9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?