

## R12.2 February 2026 Blog



2Timothy was Paul's final letter. It is short, only four chapters and less than 100 verses. It is believed that Paul knew this would be his last letter, and that he used it to emphasize the most important things to Timothy, who would faithfully continue the ministry to preach Jesus Christ.

Invest the time it takes to read 2Timothy, then reread it. Now, turn your attention to these two verses...

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Now in a wealthy home there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also ones made of wood and of clay, and some are for honorable use, but others for ignoble<sup>1</sup> use. So if someone cleanses himself of such behavior, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

~ 2Timothy 2:20-21 ~

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Let's take some time to think through what this should look like for you and me. The first thought that comes to mind is that every believer has both types of articles in their home. The second thought is that I should do all I can to clean out, get rid of, scrub, and clean those that are for "refuse." Let me share some thoughts on these two with an eye toward changing my life and hopefully helping each of you who read this to do the same. Before I go into these let me first share that I understand the home, in this context, to be referring to my life, my heart, soul and mind. To put it another way, it is everything that God will hold me eternally accountable for.

Everyone has both noble and ignoble items in their house, no one is perfect this side of the grave. As believers we're far from perfect. But more importantly, these verses say that as

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<sup>1</sup> In the footnotes from the NET translation Bible, "ignoble" is referring to vessels used for refuse or excrement.

good as I may see myself, I have areas of my life that are useful for noble purposes, and I have areas of my life that are useless. The reason I say some are useless, as the verses state, they are to be cleansed out of my life. The thought that I need to be cleansing things out of my life is something that strikes the heart of my pride. I'm thinking, *"I'm not that bad, am I?"* God is saying, *"Yes, Lee, you are that bad."* By extension, every believer has areas where the scrub brush and 409 need to be applied.

Okay, so we all have some areas that need to be cleaned and removed from our lives and replaced with "noble" items. Great, that sounds like fun. Well, probably not all that fun, but very important to do. Why is it so important to clean out this "refuse?" Well, 2Timothy 2:21 (NIV) states that "Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special [noble] purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work." So, I understand this to mean that first it's conditioned on me cleaning. I need to get out the scrub brush and 409 and start cleaning. Second, I need to do this if I intend to be holy and useful to Jesus. Third, I need to do this to be prepared for any good work. Many of you reading this engage in E<sup>2</sup> and are working at impacting men for Christ through evangelism and edification. If I want to be prepared for this good work, then I need to break out the 409 and the scrub brush and get to cleaning.

What does this mean practically? Well, my thoughts have taken me back to the basics of having Jesus change me from the inside ("I the Lord Search the heart" -Jer 17:9,10). I know Jesus loves me and has my best interest at heart. I know that Jesus will only work for the believer's eternal good (Rom 8:28,32).

For me, one way is to spend time alone with Jesus everyday so that Jesus gets that chance when I'm listening to identify, humble, and clean me from within. I call this my quiet time. Let me encourage you to get that put into your life and not allow life to crowd this out. There are numerous helps on quiet time, but make sure it includes application from GOD's Word to your life (Eph 5:26, 1John 1:9, Heb 4:12). Let Jesus cleanse and change you from the inside. Next, for me it is (a) men who I regularly meet with, (b) men who I talk with and who

encourage and exhort, (c) men who I can be open with; and (d) men who will call me out if they see areas where I need to do some house cleaning (Heb 10:24,25). I encourage each of you to get these two elements grafted into your life, Quiet Time and Accountability.

Let me summarize my application from these verses. I am assured of needing to clean up my life. I need Jesus and those Jesus brings into my life to help in this process. This cleaning is important and it's doable. I am, with God's help, able to clean up my life. If I don't get to cleaning, then I am left with the alternative of being useless. If I don't clean up my life, I'm going to experience eternal loss (1Cor 3:15). Jesus is saying that to the degree I don't clean up my life, I'm not going to be prepared for E<sup>2</sup> (i.e., "...not prepared to do any good work"). That hurts since I want eternal gain. I want to be busy building up my treasure in heaven. So, first is to (1) daily ask GOD to "search me" as I take time in HIS Word and (2) to replace areas of my life that GOD reveals to me need to be replaced. One example from my life is, I have asked GOD to help me replace time invested in "worthless" activities. I have replaced it with time invested in Bible Study. Second, I get consistent regular time with men who are pursuing Christ and who have license to live out Heb 10:24,25. Men who have license to confront, encourage, and exhort me. I encourage each of you to do the same.