

## **Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 10, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17**

### **Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

#### **1. Abstract of Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 10, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Robert Yarbrough's lecture** analyzes 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, focusing on Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding dealing with false teachers and living a godly life. **He uses metaphors**, such as containers of gold and silver versus wood and clay, to illustrate the importance of spiritual purity. **Yarbrough emphasizes the need for gentle correction** of opponents, contrasting it with quarrelsome behavior, and highlights the dangers of worldly influences within the church. **The lecture also stresses the transformative power of Scripture**, emphasizing its role in equipping believers for every good work. Finally, **he connects Paul's personal experiences of persecution** with the challenges faced by believers in all times.

**2. 22 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Yarbrough, Session 10 – Double click icon to play in  
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]  
Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament →  
Pauline Epistles → Pastoral Epistles).**



**Yarbrough\_PastEpis  
tles\_Session10.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 10, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided source, "Yarbrough\_Pastorals\_EN\_Session10.pdf," with relevant quotes included:

#### Briefing Document: Analysis of 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17

**Overview:** This session focuses on Paul's instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy, specifically addressing the challenges of dealing with false teachers, fostering personal holiness, and understanding the role of Scripture in Christian life and ministry. Yarbrough emphasizes practical application, connecting these ancient teachings to contemporary issues.

#### Key Themes and Ideas:

1. **Metaphor of Vessels (2:20-21):** Paul uses the analogy of a household with various vessels—some for special purposes (gold and silver), and some for common use (wood and clay). Yarbrough emphasizes that while the church contains all types of people ("it takes all kinds"), believers should strive to be "flower vases and not trash cans," meaning instruments dedicated to holy purposes. He quotes, *"Those who cleanse themselves from the latter, from the common use, will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the master, and prepared to do any good work."*
2. **The "Positive Ethic" (2:22):** Yarbrough describes Paul's instruction to "flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness" as a "positive ethic." It's not enough to just avoid sin; believers must actively pursue virtues like righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with fellow believers. As Yarbrough describes, *"You mortify the flesh, not by just denying what's wrong, but by turning from it, repenting in a hurry, and pursuing what's good."* He also notes that a misdirected drive can be repurposed to holy ends.
3. **Handling Conflict (2:23-26):** The focus shifts to dealing with conflict and opposition, emphasizing gentleness, teaching, and evangelistic compassion. The servant of the Lord is not to be quarrelsome but kind, able to teach, and not resentful. Yarbrough points out that the goal is the redemption of people, quoting, *"Opponents must be gently instructed in the hope that God will grant them repentance, leading them to a knowledge of the truth..."* He contrasts this

with the temptation to "show up" opponents, rather than seeking their repentance. He uses Jesus' passion week as an example of how to treat opponents with grace. He highlights the importance of restraint and self-control when confronting conflict.

4. **Characteristics of the "Last Days" (3:1-5):** Paul describes the character of people in the "last days," characterized by selfishness, love of money, pride, and a general lack of godliness. They have a form of godliness, but deny its power. Yarbrough warns that these characteristics can be found within the church, not just outside of it, which is why Paul says to *"have nothing to do with such people."*
5. **The Danger of Deception (3:6-9):** Paul describes how some "worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women." This implies a misuse of influence and potentially sexual immorality. Yarbrough connects this to the modern problem of sexual sin among church leaders and the pervasive influence of online pornography. He notes that *"the powerlessness of preaching and the emptiness of preparation for preaching is most to be attributed to the thinness of soul and heart caused by the corruption of what people look at online."* He also emphasizes that this decadence is a human problem and not necessarily tied to any specific region or religion.
6. **Paul's Example and the Expectation of Persecution (3:10-13):** Paul calls Timothy to remember Paul's way of life and the sufferings he endured for the gospel, and notes that Timothy is aware of where he went through these persecutions. He states that *"everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* Yarbrough highlights that Paul's suffering was not something to be romanticized, referencing the reality of PTSD and trauma that may affect the long term psychological and emotional health of those who endure hardship. He emphasizes that God's grace provides the courage needed to face persecution without denying Christ.
7. **The Power of Scripture (3:14-17):** Paul reminds Timothy of the importance of Scripture, emphasizing that the holy Scriptures are able to make one *"wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."* He emphasizes that scripture is God-breathed or "breathed out by God," and that it is useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God is *"thoroughly equipped for every good work."* Yarbrough emphasizes that the scriptures are not just a dead tradition but are a lifeline for faithful service in ministry and discipleship. He notes the high view of scripture that Paul has. He warns against devaluing or changing Scripture to align with modern viewpoints.

He emphasizes the necessity of having pastors who are grounded in Scripture to teach and lead the church.

8. **The Goal of Discipleship (3:16-17):** Yarborough concludes by defining the goal of Christian discipleship: to be in such communion with God such that through His word we are fully equipped for every good work.

#### Quotes of Note:

- *"Those who cleanse themselves from the latter, from the common use, will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the master, and prepared to do any good work."*
- *"You mortify the flesh, not by just denying what's wrong, but by turning from it, repenting in a hurry, and pursuing what's good."*
- *"Opponents must be gently instructed in the hope that God will grant them repentance, leading them to a knowledge of the truth..."*
- *"the powerlessness of preaching and the emptiness of preparation for preaching is most to be attributed to the thinness of soul and heart caused by the corruption of what people look at online."*
- *"everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*
- *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

#### Implications and Application:

- **Personal Holiness:** Believers must be proactive in pursuing holiness, not merely avoiding sin.
- **Dealing with Opposition:** Engage with opponents gently and with a desire for their repentance, not just to win arguments.
- **Discernment:** Be aware of the characteristics of those who are merely pretending to be godly and avoid them.
- **Integrity in Ministry:** Leaders must be vigilant against sexual immorality and other forms of corruption.
- **Value of Scripture:** The Bible is the indispensable guide for Christian life and ministry, and must be studied, trusted, and obeyed.

- **Preparation for Persecution:** Understand that persecution is to be expected and rely on God's grace for endurance.

**Conclusion:**

This session provides valuable instruction for pastors, leaders, and all believers. It highlights the importance of a godly life, faithful ministry, and a deep commitment to Scripture. It emphasizes that the path of a follower of Christ is one of both opposition and victory through the grace of God, with an emphasis on the necessity of relying on scripture to guide one on the journey. The teachings are presented with a practical understanding that connects Paul's ancient instructions to the modern context.

## 4. Study Guide: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 10, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17

### 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17 Study Guide

#### Short Answer Quiz

1. In 2 Timothy 2:20-21, what metaphor does Paul use to describe people in the church and what is the main point of the metaphor?
2. What does Paul mean when he instructs Timothy to "flee the evil desires of youth"? What should Timothy pursue instead?
3. According to 2 Timothy 2:23-26, how should a leader handle conflict, and what is the desired outcome?
4. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, what characteristics does Paul list as indicators of the "terrible times in the last days," and what is the primary issue of those described?
5. What is meant by those who have "a form of godliness, but deny its power" (2 Timothy 3:5), and what is Paul's advice regarding such individuals?
6. Who are Jannes and Jambres, and what is their significance in 2 Timothy 3:8-9?
7. How does Paul describe his own life in 2 Timothy 3:10-11, and why does he share these experiences with Timothy?
8. According to 2 Timothy 3:12, what is the expected result for everyone who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus?
9. What is the significance of Timothy knowing the Holy Scriptures from infancy, as described in 2 Timothy 3:14-15?
10. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is the origin of Scripture and what are its purposes for the "servant of God?"

#### Answer Key

1. Paul uses the metaphor of household articles (gold, silver, wood, clay) for special and common use, in order to convey that like in a household the church includes all types of people, but we should strive to be the vessels meant for special purposes.

2. Paul means that Timothy should actively turn away from youthful temptations and sinful desires; instead, he should pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, within the community of believers.
3. A leader should not be quarrelsome but kind, able to teach, and not resentful. The desired outcome is for God to grant repentance to opponents, leading them to a knowledge of the truth.
4. Paul lists characteristics like being lovers of self and pleasure, boastful, disobedient, and unholy. The primary issue is that these individuals are lovers of self rather than lovers of God.
5. These are people who outwardly appear to be religious but do not live in the power of Godliness, and Paul advises that one should avoid having anything to do with such people.
6. Jannes and Jambres were magicians in the Old Testament who opposed Moses. Paul uses them as an example to illustrate how false teachers oppose the truth.
7. Paul describes his life as one marked by teaching, a godly way of life, and suffering, including persecutions. He shares this to encourage Timothy that the gospel made a positive difference and that he can endure in Christ.
8. According to Paul, everyone who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
9. Timothy's familiarity with Scripture from a young age signifies its foundational role in his spiritual growth. This is also evidence that the scriptures can make someone wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
10. Scripture is described as "God-breathed" and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, ultimately equipping the servant of God for every good work.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of the metaphors Paul uses in 2 Timothy 2:20-21 and 3:16-17, and explain how they contribute to the overall message of this passage about faithful service and the nature of scripture.
2. Discuss the challenges of engaging with the world while maintaining holiness, as highlighted in Paul's warnings about false teachers and ungodly behavior. How does he instruct Timothy to navigate this tension, and what practical applications does it have for contemporary Christian leaders?
3. Examine the balance between the need for truth and gentleness in dealing with those who oppose the gospel, as outlined in 2 Timothy 2:23-26 and 3:1-9. How should leaders seek to win over their opponents without compromising the truth, and what does this look like in practical ministry?
4. Compare and contrast the descriptions of those who have a "form of godliness" but deny its power (3:5) and those who are "fully equipped for every good work" (3:17). How does Paul's understanding of scripture and personal experience of the gospel shape his view of these differing outcomes and help the church discern what is authentic faith?
5. Explore the theme of persecution in 2 Timothy 3:10-12 and discuss the implications of Paul's statement that all who desire to live a godly life will be persecuted. What does this mean for Christians in different contexts, and how should they prepare for and respond to suffering for their faith?



## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Despot:** (Greek *despotēs*) Used in 2 Timothy 2:21 to refer to a master of a household, a figure that can be interpreted as analogous to God.
- **Godliness:** A quality of devotion to God that manifests in righteous behavior and a holy lifestyle, as opposed to a mere outward show of religion (2 Timothy 3:5).
- **Jannes and Jambres:** Magicians from Jewish tradition who opposed Moses in the Old Testament, used by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:8 as an example of those who oppose the truth.
- **Last Days:** A term used in 2 Timothy 3:1 to describe the current time in the Christian era, which is characterized by increased wickedness and opposition to God.
- **Oikonomia:** (Greek *oikonomia*) Refers to the structure or arrangement in God's plan for the church, implying a divine ordering of roles and gifts (from Yarbrough's commentary.)
- **Persecution:** The suffering or hostility experienced by believers because of their faith, which Paul indicates is a normal expectation for those who live godly lives (2 Timothy 3:12).
- **Positive Ethic:** A method of spiritual growth that focuses on pursuing good instead of just denying evil, involving turning from sin and intentionally embracing righteousness, as seen in 2 Timothy 2:22.
- **Repentance:** A change of mind and direction, turning away from sin and toward God, often mentioned in the context of instructing opponents of the gospel (2 Timothy 2:25).
- **Scripture:** The inspired, God-breathed word of God, as it is found in the Old and New Testaments, deemed profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).
- **Vice List:** A literary list of negative character traits or behaviors common in ancient literature and also employed by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:2-5 to describe the terrible characteristics of the last days.

## 5. FAQs on Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 10, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17

1. **What is the significance of the "vessels" metaphor in 2 Timothy 2:20-21?** Paul uses the analogy of a large house with various vessels, some for special purposes (like gold and silver) and some for common use (like wood and clay), to illustrate the diversity within the church. He emphasizes that those who cleanse themselves from common use become instruments for special purposes, holy and useful to God, prepared for good work. It highlights the need for believers to strive for holiness and dedication to God, moving beyond a common or ordinary existence within the church to something more impactful.
2. **What does it mean to "flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness" (2 Timothy 2:22)?** This verse is not simply about avoiding sin, but actively pursuing good. Fleeing involves a quick and decisive turning away from negative impulses, while pursuing means actively engaging with virtues like righteousness, faith, love, and peace. This active approach involves joining the community of believers and seeking God with a pure heart. It's a call to redirect energy away from negative tendencies and toward holy purposes.
3. **How should believers handle conflict, according to 2 Timothy 2:23-26?** The passage instructs believers to avoid foolish arguments that lead to quarrels. Instead, they should be kind, gentle, and teachable, even to opponents. The goal isn't to win arguments but to gently instruct opponents, hoping for their repentance and understanding of the truth. This approach requires patience, love, and a genuine desire for the redemption of others. It involves avoiding resentment and embracing a Christ-like attitude that values teaching and gentle instruction over being quarrelsome.
4. **What are the characteristics of people in the "last days" described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5?** Paul describes people in the last days as lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. He highlights that these people may outwardly appear religious but lack genuine godliness and its power. This describes a form of godliness that lacks true power and conversion.

5. **What does the passage say about the dangers of false teachers (2 Timothy 3:6-9)?** The text describes false teachers as those who exploit vulnerable individuals, often women, and lead them astray with their teachings. They are compared to Jannes and Jambres, who opposed Moses, indicating a similar opposition to truth. These teachers are said to have depraved minds and are rejected regarding the faith. While they may gain some influence, their folly will ultimately be exposed. They often have a form of godliness but deny its power and have sinister intentions.
6. **How should Christians interact with the world, and how can they avoid being conformed to it (2 Timothy 3:1-9)?** While Christians are called to connect with and identify with sinners, like Jesus did, they must be cautious not to become like the unholy world they are trying to reach. The text underscores the importance of maintaining a holy and separate character and not making common cause with those who display sinful behaviors. The danger lies in allowing the world's negative behaviors to influence and compromise believers. Christians are encouraged to use the vice list in 3:2-4 as a diagnostic tool for self-reflection.
7. **What is the significance of Paul's personal testimony and suffering in 2 Timothy 3:10-11?** Paul recounts his own life and persecutions not to boast but to demonstrate God's grace and faithfulness. He points to his past experiences and the persecution he suffered in Timothy's home areas to reassure Timothy that God can bring him through challenging times. Paul's life serves as an example of what it means to live a life devoted to God, even amidst trials. The testimony emphasizes that those who desire to live godly lives can expect some form of opposition.
8. **What is the role and importance of scripture in Christian life and ministry (2 Timothy 3:14-17)?** Scripture is presented as essential for Christian growth and ministry. It is described as "God-breathed," emphasizing its divine origin and authority. The scriptures are able to make believers wise for salvation and are profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. The ultimate goal is to equip believers fully for every good work that God calls them to do. This means believers are to be thoroughly equipped through Scripture, which is used by the Holy Spirit, and taught by leaders in the church.