

# **An Honorable Vessel, Part 1**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 2 Timothy 2.
- B. Useful means serviceable.
- C. Many of us feel useless. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
- D. Paul's sole desire was to be used by God.

## II. Paul calls the church the firm foundation, which stands. (1 Timothy 3:13)

- A. It is elect.
- B. It is righteous.

## III. The assumption that all in the church want to be vessels for honor.

## IV. An honorable vessel.

- A. One that is sanctified. It is one set apart from holy purposes.
- B. It is useful to the master.
  - 1. It is performing its intended function.
  - 2. It must be submissive.
- C. It is eager to be used. This is availability.

## V. The provision is the Word of God and the Spirit. One has to be willing to become an honorable vessel.

## VI. Principles for being a vessel for honor.

- A. One must cleanse oneself from vessels of dishonor.
  - 1. This is staying away from fellowshiping with those of dishonor.
  - 2. One dishonorable vessel will affect those around him or her. (1 Corinthians 5, 2 Thessalonians 3:14, Isaiah 52:11, Jeremiah 15:19, Proverbs 14:20, Hebrews 12:15)
- B. One must have a clean heart.
  - 1. Timothy was in a time of great weakness. (1 Timothy 6:11)
  - 2. Timothy was to run from youthful lusts and to virtues.

3. The key is to regulate one's life according to the Word of God. (Psalm 119:9, Romans 12:21)

4. Pursue...

a. Righteousness.

b. Faithfulness.

c. Love of choice.

d. Peace.

e. With those who call upon the Lord. (Romans 10:12, 1 Corinthians 1:2)

**Application Questions:**

1. How can one go about finding his or her specific function in the church?

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2. What does it mean to separate oneself from sinners? What does it not mean?

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3. Which pursuit will you work on growing in this week? How will you go about this?

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