

2TIMOTHY

2:20-26

20 Now in any large house, there are vessels not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honored use, some for dishonor.

21 So then, anybody who cleanses himself from these will be an honored vessel, set apart, useful to the master, ready for every good work.

22 So run away from youthful passions and, instead, run after righteousness, faith, love, peace, hand in hand with others who call on the Lord from a clean heart. 23 But steer clear of stupid and uninformed controversies, knowing how they breed quarrels. 24 The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but be kind to everyone, an able teacher, forbearing, 25 finding a gentle way to correct opponents, bearing in mind that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap, having been taken alive by him to perform his wishes. ♦

If you want to be good for something, you must first be GOOD.

PASSING THE BATON #31-32

Bruce Stabbert ■ April 5 & 12, 2009

Title:

People God Uses

A CAREER AS GOD'S SERVANT

You will be useless to God if you don't:

1. Keep a humble DISTANCE from those who are running from God (20,21)

2. Make a clean BREAK with selfish desires (22a)

(pleasure first, to be somebody, impatient for "more," love of novelty, love of debate, playing loose with things that matter)

3. Make a major PURSUIT out of four traits (22b)

—righteousness (fuller integrity)

—faith (fuller reliance)

FAITH BUILDERS

1. Practical teaching
2. Providential relationships
3. Private disciplines
4. Pivotal circumstances
5. Personal ministry

—love (fuller sacrifice)

—peace (fuller contentment)

4. Make a prayerful P_____ with running-mates (22c)

5. Take a gentle S_____ of winning opponents, not beating them (23-26)