

Life Group Notes 8/10/2025
Pastor Mark Warren Stand Firm:
"Tools in God's Toolbox: Why Some Christians Get
Used More Than Others"
Week 5

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found supported in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. These notes, as Pastor Warren pointed out, are just tools in God's toolbox to help you revisit the lesson that the Holy Spirit is bringing you through servants to prepare and perfect you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations or ideas for improvement at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time. Enjoy and be blessed.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 6/7. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote speaks:

1. [On profane, useless babble.](#)
2. [On iniquity, the Greek word.](#)

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Pastor began by talking about the virtues of worship.

1. Take a minute, and describe what worship does in you, for you and to you.
2. Has it always impacted you?
3. Does the impact evolve? Grown somewhat? Explain.
4. Before he began, Pastor prophesied, saying, "God has something great for us today." What do you remember? What did you walk away with?

Pastor asked, "Have you ever pretended to know what you're talking about, or even felt confident that you knew what you were talking about, only to be shut down by someone who actually did know what the real issues were?"

1. Answer him. Do you have a story?

2. How did things turn out?
3. Where is confidence found in our faith? In our knowledge?
4. What are the steps to confidence?

✚ **No shame in the game.**

Now look up 2 Timothy 2: 14 *Remind the believers of these things, charging them before God to avoid quarreling over words, which succeeds only in leading the listeners to ruin.*

15 *Make every effort to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman who accurately handles the word of truth.*

1. Look at v. 14. What "things" is Paul talking about? How do you know?
2. (Go back to the previous verses: 8 *Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David, as proclaimed by my gospel,* 9 *for which I suffer to the extent of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained!* 10 *For this reason I endure all things for the sake of the elect, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.* 11 *This is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him;* 12 *if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He will also deny us;* 13 *if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.* List those things of which Timothy is to remind the church at Ephesus.)
3. What did we learn about the vital importance that the resurrection of Jesus plays in any presentation of the gospel?
4. Without the resurrection, what remains of the gospel?
5. Why does the historic resurrection trump all quarrelling over words? (How many ways can you think of to say, "Jesus rose from the dead?")
6. What efforts does a leader need to make to show himself approved? Do you have a list?
7. What efforts have you been making lately that show promise?
8. Show yourself...approved by whom? Does your approval of hypothetical Timothy matter?
9. Whose approval does Timothy seek?
10. How do you know if you're approved by God?

Pastor says, "We are on mission. We have been given an assignment on this earth to bring heaven to bear on earth. (Remember, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...') And he has charged us and purposed us and empowered us to live godly, approved workers working for him."

1. What do you see?
2. Pastor asks, "Have you seen yourself as a gospel worker recently?" Answer him. Do you have a story to tell?
3. Pastor says, "Think you are putting on your uniform every day, with a badge with your name, and underneath it, 'Worker for Jesus.'" Would you do that?
4. Would you get fired at your job?
5. What does it mean to "handle the Word of truth rightly/accurately?"
6. Look at verses What's a wrong way to handle the word of truth?
7. Examine what Paul tells the Colossians in chapter 4: 5 *Act wisely toward outsiders, redeeming the time.* 6 *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.* Does this apply to "rightly handling" the truth? What does Paul mean by "always" here?
8. In this context, what is a wrong handling of the word of truth?

9. Pastor spoke of the shame our actions can bring. Can you relate? How do you cope with remorse?
10. Pastor pointed to 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, where Paul tells the Corinthians, "***14**For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. **15**And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. **16**So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!*" What happens when you turn away from your past, and live for others? Do you have a testimony?
11. Look at verse 14. Who is included in the offer? Are you? Do you know of any who is not included?
12. How much of the "old" has passed away?
13. Has what has passed away ever come back to haunt you? What did you do?
14. How do you keep what has "passed away" away?
15. How does Bible study fit into right handling?
16. What's your routine? Can you share?
17. What helped put you into a routine?
18. To what degree did study help you, vs. regular reading habits?
19. Look at Hebrews 4: ***11**Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following the same pattern of disobedience. **12**For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13**Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* How do the efforts we're exhorted to in Hebrews match the efforts Paul is exhorting on Timothy?
20. What does the Word do to help us in our approval?
21. How is the Word alive? Do you have a testimony?

✦ **Avoid irreverent babble...stop stirring the pot.**

Back to 2 Timothy 2: ***16**But avoid irreverent, empty chatter, which will only lead to more ungodliness, **17**and the talk of such men will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, **18**who have deviated from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already occurred, and they undermine the faith of some.*

1. Look at verse 16. In *this* context what is a wrong handling of the word of truth?
2. Does your speech lead others? Explain. Where does it lead others?
3. Have you ever engaged in *irreverent, empty chatter*? Have you seen others engage in it? What did it lead to?
4. What is it about wasted speech that *only lead to more ungodliness*? Can you explain why? Have you been hurt by others' speech?
5. Has your speech hurt others?
6. Write the store of Hymeneus and Philetus? Did they have the authority of history, or did they invent doctrine?
7. Are there cults today that are based on invention?
8. Have you ever left a conversation that was going the wrong way? Successfully?

✦ **Christ knows those who are His.**

Now look at 19Nevertheless, God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord must turn away from iniquity."

1. How do YOU know those who are His?
2. How are they different from others?
3. How are you different from others? What's your next step?
4. Explain verse 19? What is God's firm foundation?
5. How is it sealed?

Look at John 3: 18Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness rather than the Light because their deeds were evil. 20Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

1. Explain again how God's firm foundation is sealed.
2. How does God know who are His? How does their behavior prove the claim?
3. How do you feel about light?
4. What does light do to iniquity?

Mark then prophesies, "You're saying, 'I don't think I can do this,' but let me encourage you. I know you can do this. It starts this way: Tomorrow morning, you decide to say, 'Today, I'm putting on my Jesus clothes with my badge that says, "I am a worker for Jesus". Today, I'm going to make myself available to be used by Jesus.' But don't stop there. Also say, 'Today, I'm going to become a student of God's Word. I'm going to open His word and study it, so that I know what the Word actually says.'"

He continues, "I also believe discipleship is hugely important. We can be disciplined by the Holy Spirit, and in the Word...but we need each other. We need to feed into each other's lives."

1. Share how others have helped you.
2. If you have successfully departed from iniquity, an addiction or a habit, share your success...and also how God worked this in you.
3. What steps are absolutely necessary to depart from iniquity?
4. Compare these two statements, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord must turn away from iniquity," and Joel 2:32 and twice in the NT, in Romans and in Acts, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." What hope does repentance bring?
5. What assurance?
6. Look at what Paul says, to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Can you say this to those who are close to you?
7. Why or why not?
8. Mark say if we cannot say this, it creates confusion. Explain.
9. What damage has hypocrisy done to your own walk?

Pastor says, "Some of you are saying, 'I've tried to depart from iniquity, and I'm stuck.'"

1. Have you ever felt that way?
2. Name the tools Grace has to help.
3. Have you been to Celebrate Recovery? Do you have a testimony?
4. What does recovery turn you into?
5. Why is recovery something to celebrate?

6. Is it possible to end up in a better spot than where you began? Explain.

✠ **Vessels: Gold? Silver? ...or trash can?**

Continuing 2 Timothy 2: 20 *A large house contains not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for honorable use, but others are for common use. 21* So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.

1. What do you see?
2. Can a trash can become a vessel of gold? (Have you ever done a lobster bake...where a trash can becomes a gourmet seafood cooker?)
3. Look at verse 21: Who decides the quality of the vessel?
4. What must be done?
5. Think of this: How does this work? Is the vessel important? Or is it the content of the vessel?
6. If you are the vessel...who provides the content entrusted to you?
7. What is the greatest treasure that a vessel can contain? Use your imagination.

✠ **Mark's conclusion: Live it out**

1. Don't be ashamed.
2. Study the Word of God. Begin your relationship by listening to Him. Know what it means. Be part of a life group. Study the Word like you're prepping for the greatest assignment you ever had.
3. Don't stir the pot with irreverent nonsense. Don't be a master of the sardonic quip, but be equipped by the Master. Speak things that build others up. Speak life. Speak truth. Speak Jesus.
4. Don't play games with sin. Sin separates us from God. Sin hurts others. Sin hurts us ourselves. Sin brings shame. Leaving sin behind prepares us to be more honorable than we are today.
5. Bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world that needs Him.

Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. Put on your "Worker for Jesus" badge when each day begins.
3. Pick a time for Bible study each day. Do the first day.
4. Find a group to grow with.,

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Footnotes:

1. **On profane, useless babble**—When a translator translates from one language to another, his work is rife with challenges. Words in one language are nuanced, where they are black and white in another. Words have double entendre that the writer delights in exploiting in the original, that don't even translate in another. In this passage Paul talks of profane and useless babble. Do you know what "profane" means? In English, it's defined like this:
 - ☐ Marked by contempt or irreverence for what is sacred.
 - ☐ Nonreligious in subject matter, form, or use; secular.
"sacred and profane music."
 - ☐ Not admitted into a body of secret knowledge or ritual; uninitiated.

The Greek word for “profane,” is βέβηλος, bebelos. It has to do with a threshold that anyone can walk on. Strong’s puts it like this: “*equivalent to ἅγιος (i.e. unhallowed, common), [Leviticus 10:10](#); [1 Samuel 21:4](#); opposed to ἅγιος (as in [Ezekiel 22:26](#)); Philo, vit. Moys. iii., § 18): [1 Timothy 4:7](#); [1 Timothy 6:20](#); [2 Timothy 2:16](#); of men, **profanei**. e. ungodly: [1 Timothy 1:9](#); [Hebrews 12:16](#).*

(Often in Greek writings from Aeschylus down.) (Cf. Trench, § 101.)” Our speech is not supposed to be common, which is the opposite of “holy.”

“Useless” babbling is from the Greek word, κενοφωνία *kenophonia*, which Strong’s says “...refers to speech that is “empty of content.” It suggests talk that fails to edify, persuade toward righteousness, or advance genuine knowledge. Rather than describing speech that is merely casual or harmless, the term targets words that drain spiritual vitality because they are void of divine truth.” Notice this important point: Paul is not talking about casual speech. He’s targeting ANY speech that prevents the ultimate goal of prophecy: Exhortation, edification and comfort.

2. **On iniquity, the Greek word**—Sin takes many forms in the Bible, transgression is one, missing the target is another. This footnote looks at one often translated “iniquity.” What is Paul exhorting us to walk away from? The Greek word is ἀδικία, *adikia*. “A,” the first letter, is the negative prefix used in Greek where we would say “un-”. (We see this in the English word “A”theist. A non-theist, one who has no God.) “*Dikia*” presents a problem...because *dikia* means *both* righteousness AND justice. *Adikia* is the practice of unrighteousness, and unfairness and injustice, “properly, the *opposite of justice*; unrighteousness, as a *violation of God's standards*. Strong’s says it represents the injustice of a judge. The unrighteousness of heart and life. specifically, unrighteousness by which others are deceived: [John 7:18](#). Draw your conclusions. What do you need to stop doing.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (Scripture—Copy the scripture. / Observation—Write what you see. / Application—Write what God is saying. / Prayer—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 2 Timothy 2:14
Tuesday: 2 Timothy 2:15-18
Wednesday: 2 Timothy 2:19-21
Thursday: Colossians 4:5-6
Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Saturday: Hebrews 4:11-13
Sunday: John 3:18-21