

# **THE TWELVE STEPS TO A FANTASTIC FINISH**

## **II Timothy 2:20-26**

### **Step Number Seven - Satanic Seduction: I Am Keeping My Eyes On Jesus**

**Second Timothy is the last book Paul wrote.**

**He is in the Mamertine Prison.**

**He has had a court hearing before the Roman authorities.**

**Nobody stood with him.**

**In that hearing he sensed that he was going to be executed.**

**The actual court appearance is going to be some months later.**

**So that is what precipitated this letter.**

**He hopes to get the letter to Timothy in Ephesus, get him to get things organized, get on the Adriatic Sea before travel ceases on November 6**

**(and through March, there is no sailing),**

**and get to him in Rome before he is executed.**

**He wants to have one final visit with him.**

**We are studying Paul's words that are his final legacy and looking at them as our 12 Steps to a Fantastic Finish.**

**I want to remind you of a statement that we said back at the beginning of this study:**

**“Failure to prepare is preparation is for failure.”**

**We also discussed that you can wish for something but it is not going to happen unless you prepare for it. We also said that when we die it is our goal to hear “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”**

**We all share that passion.**

**We also share the passion for God to bless us.**

**But before God can bless, some things have to happen in our lives.**

**Before you can be assured of**

**“Well done, thou good and faithful servant,”**

**there are some things that you must line up and get done before you meet the Lord face to face.**

**These are the 12 Steps to a Fantastic Finish:**

**The six steps we have studied are:**

**Step #1: INTEGRITY: Getting It All Together**

**(2 Tim. 1:1-7)**

**Integrity begins at the moment you have a relationship with Christ. The potential for good integrity starts at that point, especially when you walk with God in a transparent, open, honest relationship.**

**Step #2: CONVICTION: Here I Stand, God Help Me**

**(2 Tim. 1:8-12)**

**It is forming a framework of what we accept and what we do not accept biblically. And in our lives, that which we stand against and that which we stand for is very clear. We have a framework.**

**That brings us to step number three.**

**Step #3: COURAGE: I Am Willing To Pay The Price**

**(2 Tim. 1:13-18)**

**If I have to give my life for my convictions, I am willing to do it. It is the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego saying you know, we are not going to bow before this idol; we are not going to worship you; we are not going to pray to you. Then they said our God is able to deliver us and if he does not, we still are not going to. That is courage.**

**That led us to step number four.**

**Step #4: LEGACY: What Am I Passing On?-to the next generation (2 Tim. 2:1-7)**

**What are you leaving behind to your family, to your closest friends? What are you leaving them as a tribute to the years that you have spent here on earth? And does that legacy have eternal ramifications? Those are big questions.**

**That led us to step number five.**

**Step #5: PERSEVERANCE: In Single-Minded Steadfastness, I Will Stay The Course (2 Tim. 2:8-13)**

**Perseverance is the key to the whole thing. Staying on course.**

**That led us to our last study.**

**Step #6: FOCUSED: This One Thing I Do (2 Tim. 2:14-19)**

**The Apostle Paul makes it quite clear that the focus needs to be the one thing that God has called you to do and to give your best to that.**

**Paul said this one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward those things which are in front.**

**(Phil. 3:13)**

**Now, that brings us to today's study.**

**Step #7: SATANIC SEDUCTION: I Am Keeping My Eyes on Jesus (2 Tim. 2:20-26)**

**We need to realize that satanic seduction is going to be in force to keep you from making the fantastic finish.**

**It is his desire to destroy you and to keep you from enjoying the fulfillment of that.**

**Now I realize when I start talking about Satan that some people just do not believe that he exists. People do not believe that the real Christian life is a war.**

**Our key verse is going to be verse 22 and when we get down there we will look at it.**

**Peppermint Patty and Charlie Brown are having a conversation:**

**Peppermint Patty: Chuck, what do you think security is?**

**Charlie Brown: Security? Security is sleeping in the backseat of the car when you're a little kid, and you've been somewhere with your mom and dad . . . and it's night-time.**

**You're riding in the car and you can sleep in the backseat and you don't have to worry about anything.**

**Your mom and dad are in the front seat and they're doing all the worrying. They take care of everything.**

**Peppermint Patty: That's real neat!**

**Charlie Brown: But it doesn't last. It doesn't last. Suddenly, you're grown up and it can never be that way again. Suddenly, it's over—and you don't get to sleep in the backseat of the car anymore. Never!**

**Peppermint Patty: Never?**

**Charlie Brown: Never**

**Peppermint Patty: Hold my hand, Chuck! Hold my hand!**

**The moment of great insecurity.**

**Some of you may be experiencing insecurity. On September 11<sup>th</sup> we witnessed the greatest terrorist of them all.**

**He is a seducer to break down your defenses and to come up on your blind side and destroy you. 1 Peter 5:8 makes it quite clear that Satan is a roaring lion going about seeking whom he may devour.**

**Do you realize that 62% of Americans today do not believe that Satan exists?**

**They believe that he is a principal of evil but he is not a person who exists and who has his total terrorist organization ready to perform any subversive action to accomplish his purpose in destroying us.**

**Secondly, this will shock you just a little bit more, 52% of born-again Christians do not believe that Satan exists.**

**All Satan has to focus on is 38% of people who are not believers and 48% of people who are believers to get his program fully enacted.**

**No wonder he is so effective today.**

**No wonder he is accomplishing so much.**

**And I will tell you another thing, he is in the business of seducing senior citizens by getting them to buy into the system that it is too late for them to do anything to recover and to be effective and to make a fantastic finish.**

**Satan has a two-prong program.**

**Number one, he wants to blind people from ever coming into a personal relationship with Christ.**

**When they become believers, the Christian becomes the enemy. And he is out to destroy and render the believer ineffective.**

**Let's look at the text, verse 20.**

***Verse 20, "Now in a large house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some indeed for honorable use and some for dishonorable use."***

**Remember, Timothy's name means "God honoring." And really all Paul is asking of Timothy is that when Paul dies and if Timothy does not get there**

**he wants him to live up to his name and to be God honoring.**

**And so he uses an illustration of a big house.**

**In a big house you have very special vessels that are gold and silver and then you have vessels that are made of pottery and other metals that are there for menial tasks.**

**So he is making a distinction.**

**He is saying in the big house there are these vessels for honorable use and there are these vessels for dishonorable.**

**What does that mean?**

**That means in the church, the body of Christ, you have people who are for honorable use and people who are for dishonorable use.**

**The church at its best today is a place of hypocrites. People will tell you that.**

**We hope and pray that as a result of the fellowship, hypocrites will become real and become vessels for honorable use because the choices you make determine how you are going to be used by the Lord.**

**It is making the right choices that will allow you to be transformed instantaneously from a cracked pot into a beautiful golden goblet that will hold the wine of joy and allow you to refresh the lives of others.**

**That is a vessel for honorable use. The decision is ours with regard to how we relate to his illustration.**

**There are going to be a lot of people who will never be vessels for honorable use.**

**They do not care about their integrity.**

**Their convictions are conforming to the culture.**

**They do not have to be courageous because they do not have anything to stand for that is different.**

**They do not have to worry about leaving a legacy because when they die, they just want to go off the scene.**

**As far as perseverance is concerned, they want to have the good life and so pleasure is the choice.**

**And rather be focused on one thing, they do not want to miss anything so they are trying it all to live life to the fullest.**

**There is no commitment, they never get serious, and basically they are living for material priorities.**

**When you put those things at the top, you never will be a vessel that is for honorable use.**

**In Matt. 4:19 Jesus said, “*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*”**

**The Lord is waiting today for the decision you make to this message to make you into a vessel**

**for honorable use if you want it and part of a fantastic finish is to be a vessel for honorable use before you get out of here.**

**That is the bottom line.**

**Now you are thinking, show me some dishonorable vessels. Well, I am glad you said that, we have:**

- 1. Abiram, Dathan, and the sons of Korah as they rebelled against Moses and their leadership.**
- 2. Nadab and Abihu, those two young priests who offered strange fire.**
- 3. Hophni and Phineas, the two priests, sons of Eli, who were shacking up with the women who were coming to worship at the tent at Shiloh and coming to worship God and they were more concerned about immoral things.**
- 4. Cain**
- 5. Ishmael**
- 6. Esau**
- 7. Judas Iscariot**
- 8. Ananias and Sapphira**
- 9. Diotrophes**
- 10. Demas, you are going to meet him in chapter four before we are done.**
- 11. Alexander the coppersmith, you are going to meet him also.**

**These are all individuals whose lives demonstrate that they were around spiritual things but they ended up being for dishonorable use.**

**Jeremiah 18, when the Lord tells Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house, he sees the potter making a vessel on the wheel and it was not a good vessel so what did he do? He made it again, another vessel that would bring him glory and honor.**

**The problem with becoming a vessel for honorable use is that we have a plan.**

**God has a plan, we have a plan; and we have to surrender our plan to God's plan in order to know the joy.**

**Now verse 21**

**Verse 21: *“If therefore, a person cleanse himself from these, he shall be a vessel for honorable use, having been set apart, useful to the master, having been prepared for every good work.”***

**Now that ought to just cause goose bumps to come all over you.**

**You want all four of those things, don't you, along with hearing well done, thou good and faithful servant?**

**Did you notice a change in verse 21 from verse 20?**

**You see in verse 21 it is a person.**

**It was a vessel in a big house in the illustration in verse 20.**

**Now it is the person who is involved. *“If therefore, a person”* do this he *“cleanse himself from these.”***

**Now what we have to do is define *“these”*, just hang on for a minute.**

**How do we cleanse ourselves? Psalm 119:9 & 11:**

***“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”***

**1 John 1:9: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and to cleanse us.”***

**2 Cor. 7:1 (KJV): *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”***

**It is being specific and addressing issues with the Lord.**

**Psalm 139:23** “*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.*”

**Psalm 26:2** “*Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;*” David says in

**Psalm 51:10** “*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*”

**Now would you look at the promises that are yours when you follow that prescription and you cleanse yourself in verse 21?**

**There are THREE THINGS that are said about a clean vessel. It is:**

- 1. “A VESSEL FOR HONORABLE USE,”**
- 2. “SET APART, USEFUL TO THE MASTER,” and**
- 3. “PREPARED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.”**

**Now if a “*person cleanse himself from these,*” what does it mean by the word “*these?*”**

**We have to jump back in the text to our previous study. The word “*THESE*” in this context refers to THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS:**

- 1. Those who are WRANGLING**

**2 Tim. 2:14:** “*Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words. . . .*” It is useless.

**Do not spend your time arguing over theological things. It is a waste of time.**

**2. Those participating in WICKEDNESS**

**2 Tim. 2:19: “*The Lord knows those who are His,*” and, “*Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.*”**

**3. The WAYWARD 2 Tim. 2:20.**

**Those “*vessels of dishonorable use,*” do not hang around them. They are living up to their own low expectations. Let them do it.**

**You have another direction to go.**

**Separate yourself from those.**

**Verse 22 is the **KEY VERSE** to Step #7:**

**Verse 22: “*Now be fleeing from the passions of youth, but pursuing after righteousness, faith, love, peace in company with those who are calling upon the Lord out of a pure heart.*”**

**Step #7-SATANIC SEDUCTION: I AM KEEPING MY EYES ON JESUS.**

**There are going to be **THREE COMMANDS** in these next two verses that form a critical battle plan for victory in the face of satanic seduction.**

**You have the **TWO COMMANDS** in verse 22:**

**1. “*BE FLEEING*” and**

**2. “*BE PURSUING.*”**

**In verse 23 we will have the **COMMAND**:**

### **3. “*BE AVOIDING.*”**

**The emphasis upon the “vessel” in verse 21 was upon the EXTERNAL.**

**The emphasis, here in verse 22, is upon the INTERNAL.**

**There is a NEGATIVE and a POSITIVE COMMAND in verse 22:**

**NEGATIVE—“*BE FLEEING FROM THE PASSIONS OF YOUTH*”**

**POSITIVE—“*BE PURSUING AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, LOVE, PEACE IN COMPANY WITH THOSE WHO ARE CALLING UPON THE LORD OUT OF A PURE HEART.*”**

**Just as JOSEPH FLED FROM POTIPHAR’S HOUSE and would have nothing to do with his wife, so Paul is making a plea that Timothy be one who flees:**

**“*THE PASSIONS OF YOUTH.*”**

**But as for you, oh man of God, be fleeing these things, but be going after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.**

**Fight the good fight of faith.**

**Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and confess the good confession before many witnesses.**

**Whereas, the NEGATIVE COMMAND is to:**

**“*BE FLEEING FROM THE PASSIONS OF YOUTH.*”**

**The POSITIVE COMMAND is to be  
“PURSUING AFTER” FOUR THINGS:**

**1. “*RIGHTEOUSNESS,*”**

**2. “*FAITH,*”**

**3. “*LOVE,*” and**

**4. “*PEACE IN COMPANY WITH THOSE WHO ARE  
CALLING UPON THE LORD OUT OF A PURE  
HEART.*”**

**The SEVENTH STEP to a fantastic finish is:**

**SATANIC SEDUCTION: I AM KEEPING MY EYES ON  
JESUS.**

**The DICTIONARY defines the word “SEDUCTION” as:**

- 1. leading astray of somebody: the act of persuading somebody to do something wrong . . .**
- 2. luring of somebody into sex: the act of persuading somebody to have sex, especially by using a romantic or deceptive approach.**
- 3. tempting: something that tempts, persuades, or attracts**

**OTHER WORDS that would communicate this thought  
are:**

**ALLUREMENT,**

**TEMPTATION,**

**BAIT,  
DECOY,  
INDUCEMENT,  
FASCINATION,  
APPEAL, and  
ATTRACTIVENESS.**

**SATAN IS A MASTER AT THIS ART!  
That is why it is so incredible that the statistics are  
what they are. He has seduced so many into believing  
that he does not exist.  
That is what he is famous for.**

**He started in the Garden of Eden and his plan  
has not changed since then.**

**Now here are a few verses.**

**Rev. 12:9: and John says,  
*“And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of  
old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the  
whole world; he was thrown down to the earth. . . .”***

**Here is another one, 2 Cor. 2:11: *“In order that no  
advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not  
ignorant of his schemes.”***

**2 Cor. 11:3: “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”**

**2 Cor. 11:13-14 “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”**

**The problem is we are not prepared, we have been seduced, and we get overwhelmed.**

**We literally see it falling apart**

- it might be our marriage,**
  - might be our job,**
  - it might be an attack in our family**
- or in some other way**

**and we are totally unprepared for what has happened.**

**And that is the epitome of seduction.**

**Now I want you to know something, the devil is smart. But “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world but he is smart.”**

**And do you know what else?**

**He has two tremendous advantages.**

**Number one he has home field advantage and number two he studies your game films.**

**He knows you from your unsaved days.**

**He knows your tendencies, he knows your weaknesses, and he does not waste his time on your strength because you are proud of your strength.**

**But he knows where you are weak  
and as a result of studying your films  
he knows exactly how to orchestrate  
what he has to orchestrate  
to get you off track,  
get you seduced  
and get you destroyed for any effectiveness.**

**When you realize that you are in a war, you have to call  
an audible at the line of scrimmage and the audible is  
“Lord Jesus, your property is in danger.” Period.  
He is the one who can give us victory.**

**Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, tells them of their  
former condition in:**

***Ephesians 2:1-3***

***“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in  
which you formerly walked according to the course of  
this world, according to the prince of the power of the  
air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of  
disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in  
the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh  
and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath,  
even as the rest.”***

**He then tells us what we need to do in light of this fact:**

***Ephesians 6:10-13***

***“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His  
might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be  
able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For  
our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against***

***the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.***

**G.K. Chesterton said, “Morality, like art, consists in drawing the line somewhere.” You have to stand.**

**Columnist Herb Caen wrote in the San Francisco Chronicle: “Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn’t matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle; when the sun comes you, you’d better be running.”**

**That is exactly what you and I need to realize.**

**Old Bubba says it best. He says, describing this guy, “His morals got a leak in ‘em somewhere.”**

**You know, that is not too far off.**

**People have gotten a leak somewhere and as a result of that they do not have the endurance to stand in the time of war and conflict against this enemy of our souls and they are seduced.**

**(Bubba Speak: Texas Folk Sayings by W. C. Jameson)  
Plano, TX: Republic of Texas Press. Copyright - W. C. Jameson, 1998. 195 pp.  
p. 81**

**Now, verse 23, “*But be avoiding foolish and stupid speculations knowing that they are giving birth to quarrels.*”**

**We now have here in verse 23 the THIRD OF THREE COMMANDS that Paul has given to Timothy to provide a game plan for AVOIDING SATANIC SEDUCTION. We have:**

- 1. verse 22—“be fleeing from the passions of youth,”**
- 2. verse 22—“be pursuing after righteousness, faith, love peace in company with those who are calling upon the Lord out of a pure heart,” and**
- 3. verse 23—“BUT BE AVOIDING FOOLISH AND STUPID SPECULATIONS.”**

**Ephesians 4:14**

***“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;”***

**Paul is telling Timothy to AVOID all the “WHAT IF’S” knowing that:**

**“THEY ARE GIVING BIRTH TO QUARRELS.”**

**Philippians 4:8**

***“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”***

**Paul is saying here in verse 23 that a lot of time can be wasted in speculating about spiritual things. Whenever you accept something by faith there is always an opportunity for speculation in many areas.**

**When you have a difference of opinion on a given subject, of course, immediately you will have a quarrel on your hands.**

**Now, verse 24 tells you how to do it.**

***“Now, the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome but he must be kind toward all, skillful in teaching, bearing evil without resentment.”***

**Do you want to be a vessel for honorable use?**

**Do you want to be a person who is set apart to be useful to God?**

**Here the apostle describes for Timothy “THE SERVANT OF THE LORD” in a NEGATIVE and a POSITIVE way.**

**NEGATIVE:**

**“[he] MUST NOT BE QUARRELSOME BUT”**

**POSITIVELY he must be characterized in FOUR WAYS:**

- 1. “TO BE KIND TOWARD ALL,”**
- 2. “SKILLFUL IN TEACHING,”**
- 3. “BEARING EVIL WITHOUT RESENTMENT,” and then**
- 4. “IN GENTLENESS CORRECTING THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSING” (we will be considering this in verse 25).**

**Verse 25**

***v. 25 “In gentleness correcting those who are opposing; If perhaps God may grant them repentance resulting in a knowledge of the truth.”***

**“The servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome but” he is to be:**

- 1. “kind toward all,”**
- 2. “skillful in teaching,”**
- 3. “bearing evil without resentment,” and now**
- 4. “IN GENTLENESS CORRECTING THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSING.”**

**This CORRECTION is to be done in “GENTLENESS.” Not to be done in ANGER, but rather to be done with soft words.**

**The REASON Paul makes the admonition to be doing this  
“IN GENTLENESS” (the goal and objective in mind)  
is that:**

**“PERHAPS GOD MAY GRANT THEM REPENTANCE  
RESULTING IN A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.”**

**What Paul is saying is that if this is done  
in the right way, there is hope that God  
may grant repentance to the opponents  
who are in error. As a result of their repentance  
they will be coming to “*a knowledge of the truth.*”  
Why do you do that?**

***“If perhaps God,” and this is a prayer wish, “may grant  
them repentance resulting in the knowledge of the  
truth.”***

**The word “MAY” is a WISH-PRAYER.**

**THIS PRAYER WILL BE ANSWERED IF TWO THINGS  
ARE TRUE:**

- 1. THE SERVANT OF THE LORD IS GENTLE IN HIS  
APPROACH and**
- 2. THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS THERE IN CONVICTION TO  
GUIDE INTO TRUTH.**

**Now we come to our final verse of the study. Verse 26  
“*And they may come to their senses and escape from the  
snare of the devil, having been held captive by him,  
under the spell of his will.*”**

**Do you believe that you could be in Satan's trap today?  
Is it possible that you have been snared and that today  
you are in his trap?**

**You see, the choice is really yours isn't it?**

**What did the prodigal son have to do?**

**What Paul is praying for Timothy is that as he is skillful  
in his teaching and as he is faithful in his life  
and witness that people will repent and be snatched  
free from the seduction of the world's greatest terrorist  
and be delivered and be set free to be a vessel for  
honorable use.**

**You see the destructive effect of sin is that it  
numbs the conscience, and it confuses the mind,  
and it erodes our convictions,  
and it causes us to rationalize ourselves,  
and it paralyzes our will, and we do not do  
what we need to do.**

**David Jeremiah's book called *Slaying the Giants in  
Your Life*, has this story in it that fits today's study:**

**"An old legend about the devil tells us he was crossing  
the Libyan desert when he came upon one of his own  
circles—a circle of demons. This little group was  
working together to tempt a holy man, and they had  
pulled out every weapon in their arsenal. They had  
tried the seductions of the flesh first, but the holy man  
had held out. They came at his mind with doubts and  
fears, telling him he was wasting his life in aspiring  
toward holiness. That didn't work either. They tried  
everything they could think of, but the holy man was  
strong in the faith.**

**“Satan listened carefully to their account, then asked them to step aside and watch the master at work. Then he whispered only two sentences into the ear of the man: ‘Have you heard the news? Your brother was just promoted to bishop of Alexandria.’**

**“Just like that, the holy man’s mouth sank into a little frown. A crease formed a small canyon in his brow, and the devil knew he had won. It works every time.”**

**Jealousy, envy, all of these things that minister to our pride he knows because he has been studying our game plans.**

**There is a little story about the kid who was getting beat up by the big bully everyday going to school. Finally one of his friends said if you would just carry a stick you could hit him. Well, he carried a stick and the guy grabbed his stick and beat him up again. So about the third or fourth day he was going to school and the bully steps out and he said, “Come after me, I am ready for you.” The bully could not believe that the kid had grown up and became so courageous all of a sudden and as the bully was squaring off to get him, his daddy stepped out from behind the bush, 6’ 10”, 275 pounds and the bully said “Uh-oh.”**

**You know that is what happens when the Lord Jesus intervenes.**

**He is the powerful one.**

**He is the adequate one.**

**And he waits to be called upon in victory.**

**There are 13 lessons that come out of this study.**

## **LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

**LESSON #1: Satan's plan for your life is for you to live in denial, defense, defeat, and ultimately, destruction.**

**LESSON #2: Satan is very much aware of your weaknesses and tendencies. He has the home field advantage.**

**LESSON #3: Is the passion of your heart to be a "vessel for honorable use" (verse 21)?**

**LESSON #4: Is your "vessel" clean so that God can use you?**

**LESSON #5: Are you "useful to the master" and "prepared for every good work" (verse 21)?**

**LESSON #6: Are you "fleeing from the passions of youth" (verse 22)?**

**LESSON #7: Are you "pursuing after righteousness, faith, love, peace in company with those who are calling up the Lord out of a pure heart" (verse 22)?**

**LESSON #8: As far as you know right now, is your heart pure before the Lord?**

**LESSON #9: Are you "avoiding foolish and stupid speculations" (verse 23)?**

**LESSON #10: As a "servant of the Lord," are you "kind toward all, skillful in teaching, bearing evil without resentment, and in gentleness correcting those who are opposing" (verses 24 & 25)?**

**LESSON #11: Has the Lord used you recently to precipitate "repentance resulting in a knowledge of the truth" (verse 25)?**

**LESSON #12: Are there those in your circle of friends who have been caught in "the snare of the devil" and do you have a plan for helping them to come to their senses? (verse 26)**

**LESSON #13: Step #7 for a Fantastic Finish is recognizing satanic seduction: I am keeping my eyes on Jesus.**

**STUDIES IN THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO  
TIMOTHY**

**“The Twelve Steps to a Fantastic Finish”**

**Key verse 2:15 — “*Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.*”**

**STEP NUMBER SEVEN – **Satanic Seduction: I Am Keeping  
My Eyes On Jesus****

**2 Timothy 2:20-26**

**Key verse 2:22**

**Notes**

**v. 20** Now in a large house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some indeed for honorable use and some for dishonorable use.

**v. 21** If therefore, a person cleanse himself from these, he shall be a vessel for honorable use, having been set apart, useful to the master, having been prepared for every good work.

**v. 22** Now be fleeing from the passions of youth, but pursuing after righteousness, faith, love, peace in company with those who are calling upon the Lord out of a pure heart.

**v. 23** But be avoiding foolish and stupid speculations knowing that they are giving birth to quarrels.

**v. 24** Now the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome but to be kind toward all, skillful in teaching, bearing evil without resentment.

**v. 25** In gentleness correcting those who are opposing; If perhaps God may grant them repentance resulting in a knowledge of the truth.

**v. 26** And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him, under the spell of his will.

## QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 2 Timothy 2:20-26 and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.**
  
- 2. Are you a vessel that is clean and available for the Lord to use?**
  
- 3. What kind of a “vessel” do you think you are?**
  
- 4. What must a person do to be “a vessel for honorable use,” according to verse 21?**
  
- 5. Are you a “vessel for honorable use . . . set apart, useful to the master,” and equipped for “every good work” (verse 21)?**
  
- 6. What must we “flee” and what must we “pursue,” according to verse 22?**
  
- 7. How is the “servant of the Lord” to conduct himself in ministry, according to verses 24 & 25?**
  
- 8. What are some of the “snares” that the devil uses to “hold captive” believers that have fallen into his trap? (verse 26).**
  
- 9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?**
  
- 10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**