

## *If We Suffer*

### **Second Timothy 2:11 – 26**

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~ I, Andrew C. Hunt, never thought I would be in the ministry, friends. I certainly never expected to be a missionary. Although I was saved at age seven, I never felt called to the service of the Lord in any capacity until much later in life. I began writing these reports *LONG* before this forum on which I now teach came into existence – beginning with Hebrews, Joel, Ruth, James and first Peter. I only began writing what would later become the Spiritual Safari to see if the Bible was true – and if there were any irreconcilable contradictions in it. See, I don't memorize things very well – but, when I write them down, I tend to not forget them. I never intended for these writings to become a public Bible teaching concern – but here we are.

When the Lord revealed to me that, very much like the apostle Paul, I would suffer great things for His Names sake – I said, “*no, thanks.*” However, the Word of God burned like a fire in my bones. Today, I bury myself in the study of the Word of God and in prayer just to reach, at the most, a few hundred people. Candidly, I know it isn't even that many. I don't think more than fifty people ever really read any one of these reports. Well, God told me not to worry about who He chooses for salvation. The Lord told me that it just isn't any of my business who He sets these reports in front of or causes to understand Him. Now, I'm not going to lie to you dear readers – because I never have lied to any of you – but this all disturbs me tremendously. If you spent countless hours typing out three thousand word essays every day, but no one was reading them then, trust me, you would be deeply disturbed with your prospects.

Anyways, I now know without question that this Spiritual Safari is the Lord's work being done His way. I am attempting to teach the *ENTIRE* Word of God to the entire world in the apostle's doctrine. So, I know without doubt that I am in the direct will of God. Today, I invite you to come along with me in this expedition. Let's get the entire Word of God out together, friends; studying together as good workmen, to show ourselves approved.

There is so much Biblically themed noise being published today – particularly on this forum on which the Lord has directed me to teach – but very little of it makes any sense. Almost none of what is sold as “*Bible teaching*” helps anyone at all. If this safari only reaches a few people, then those other “*Bible teachings*” reach *NO ONE*. You can just write that down.

There are two ways you can help me today: one, by praying specifically for me and this ministry. Prayer is the most important contribution anyone can ever make to this so-called safari. Of course, the second way is to give financially and materially to ensure our mission remains physically operable and the safari content remains free. That’s the only way people are going to learn and understand the Bible for themselves. I don’t see anyone teaching the Bible properly, correctly and completely today. I just don’t see this type of teaching done this way by anyone else. That’s because it takes work and effort, friends. It takes a *WHOLE LOT* of Bible study – and even more prayer. Our safari will only continue if it can support and sustain itself through the generous and Biblical giving of friends of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you aren’t a child of God, then I’m not asking you for anything. Only the priests can carry the ark! Only God’s genuine children can pray and be heard.

Alright, in our last report we began to examine the seven different figures of speech the apostle Paul used to describe the duties and activities of a genuine, born again believer. We considered (1) a son of God (2) a good soldier (3) an athlete (4) a farmer – in our last report. In this report, we will complete the examination with (5) a workman (6) a vessel and (7) a servant. I wish these truths could be impressed a little stronger as we near the end times in which we live; but I don’t see that happening. Well, before we get back to those seven figures of speech, we need to drop back and tie-up some loose ends. See, there is no short-cut to learning the Word of God, my beloved. It takes an incredible amount of desire and work. There are sixty-six books to comprehend; and every single one of them work together to give us a composite picture of Truth and the Mind of Christ. There is *NO OTHER* way. You’re either going to dedicate yourself to learning Scripture, or you’re not going to understand God...

***11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:***

~ You and I are identified with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death. When you came to the Lord, you signed on to follow Him to the cross. That's what Jesus came to this earth to do – die for our sins. We are also identified with Christ in His resurrection. We have been raised from the dead; which means Christ wants to live His life through us, speak through us, work through us, love others through us, and have His being through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Well, that means we are going to suffer for the cause of Christ – make no mistake about that. The language in verse twelve couldn't be any clearer or any stronger. Faith without works is dead. That means works of faith – not works of the law. Paul and James both teach this tenet of Scriptural truth. Faith alone saves; but the faith that saves is not alone. There are many saints today that are not suffering for the furtherance of the Gospel; and they won't be reigning with Him in His future Kingdom on earth. It may be possible to misinterpret some areas of Scripture – but not this one....

***12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:***

***13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.***

~ God will not accept as true one who is false, friends. Jesus gave a scathing denunciation of the religious rulers by calling them fools, hypocrites and children of the devil. They were pretending to be something they were not. If Christ accepted those people under any circumstances, then He would actually be denying Himself; and that is simply impossible. Christ is the truth. The Word of God is the truth. You're going to have to be honest, genuine and truthful; and we have a *WHOLE LOT* of phony, pious, pretentious, proud, pygmy imposters running around in the church – all professing to be great men of God who believe the Bible while perpetually trying to disprove it. They are very subtle – just as the Pharisees were typically subtle – and just as Satan is always subtle.

The religious zealot always end up playing word games, too; such as acting as if they are Greek or Hebrew scholars – when the reality is that they couldn't even order a salad in a Greek restaurant or ask for and receive

directions to the Wailing Wall in Hebrew in Jerusalem. When learning or teaching the Bible, we need to stick closely to essentials. Religious philosophies and interpretational differences *NEVER* conclude with one side acceding or the other side succeeding. They conclude with insults flying – every time. It is nearly impossible to correct another believer. For example, I don't believe in speaking in tongues; and I teach that glossolalia is a satanic practice in my reports. I used to argue about that type of thing; but today, I just don't care what others do or don't do. If you believe you must speak in tongues, then that's between you and the Lord. I happen to know tongues is not a gift for today – but – arguing over it serves no purpose – it is a total and complete waste of time....

***14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.***

***15 Study to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

~ That brings us to the fifth figure of speech; the workman. A workman means a teacher. Not everyone can be a Bible teacher; remember, Paul is speaking to Timothy in this epistle, who was taking over as pastor in the church at Ephesus at the time in which we are studying. Not everyone can be a pastor, either. We've been over all of that before on this safari. Well, a teacher has to be a student first. There is no teacher in the world that wasn't a student first. Teaching the Bible is an ongoing learning process, too. That doesn't mean we listen to every Christian cliché that gets blurted out; but it does mean we have a source or sources of Bible study that we trust because we have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment beforehand. Teaching as a workman also requires a copious amount of time in prayer, by the way.

There is no other way to handle the Scriptures and learn to rightly divide them. Only a highly-skilled workman can rightly divide the Word of God. This man is actually an artisan who understands that Holy Writ is one great big bundle of truth. It all goes together, Scripture confirms other portions of Scripture, and is a total and complete reaffirmation of itself in the process!

An articulate ability is imperative; however, not an overly-intellectual ability to pontificate profusely to the point of confusion. The Bible has certain rules, certain structures, and dispensations that *MUST* be observed and obeyed when conveying the apostle's doctrine. Lifting out a verse here and a verse there that are irrelevant to other verses, and stringing together a fractured passage that ignores other sections of Scripture, can only result in a phony, peanut, self-serving religious theory. It doesn't do anyone any good when that happens. That's the main reason I teach the *WHOLE* Bible, my friends. There is nowhere to run and hide when it is taught the way I do. It's very easy to pick out passages here and there – but the Bible just isn't that kind of book. That may work with the philosophy books; but, with the Word of God, you take the whole thing or *NONE* of it is useful....

***16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.***

***17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;***

~ These two men, Hymenaeus and Philetus, were apostates who took pieces and parts of the Word of God and began a cult. I'm sure they spoke a mouthful of verbose verbiage. Of course, they were really woefully ignorant of what Paul was teaching. Although God dealt with different men in different methods at different times in the Bible, it was always on the basis of the death of Christ Jesus for sins. That is the only method of salvation. However, man expresses his faith in different ways. For example, Abraham and Abel brought a little lamb to an altar and sacrificed it. If you take a little lamb to church next Sunday and slaughter it on the altar, that's heresy. Today, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world has already come. Abraham looked forward to Christ; we look back to Christ. I can only wish people knew a little bit more about the Bible before they write about it. The Bible is the best-known and bestselling book that nobody reads. Well, if you want to be credible and authoritative on any particular subject, you are going to have to know that subject, friends; because one cannot teach what they do not know. With so much so-called Bible teaching going around, it's no mystery that we have utter confusion and conflicts amongst churches....

***18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.***

***19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.***

~ If you will pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then confess your sins before the Lord in prayer, and then study the Bible properly, correctly and completely, I *PROMISE* you that it will become something entirely new to you. If you will do those things, you will begin to understand the Word of God in a way that you never will otherwise. Failing to do those things, quite frankly, will render the Bible of no profit whatsoever to any individual. For example, many people today believe they have been made sinlessly perfect. They simply do not understand that when we are made to be sinless like Jesus, we will also receive glorified bodies that never get sick and never die. So, there is *NO WAY* we are sinlessly perfect today. When the apostles said “*we are made perfect*” – that means we have been made mature saints; and you’ll only understand that when you understand the Bible properly, correctly and completely.

***Deuteronomy 6: 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates ~***

Remember, the Old Testament saint in Israel was commanded to write out Scriptures and put them on the posts of their houses. In other words, they were to make their house a billboard for the Word of God. God knew something about outdoor display advertising *LONG* before man caught on. Today, man has learned that he can make the things in this world that are very wrong look very right and attractive. Alcohol, sex, and many other things appear enticing when they are surrounded by neon lights. Well, I

don't see the Word of God being displayed attractively today. Frankly, the poor grammar, typos, incomplete sentences, horrible essay structure and overall crude illiteracy amongst most Christians is appalling and shameful. And all of that harms the cause of Christ.

Today, the church ignores two Scriptures that should never be ignored. (1) *"the Lord knoweth them that are His."* Well, the Lord may know, but how are those outside the church going to know who are His? (2) *"let everyone that nameth the name of Christ DEPART FROM INIQUITY!"* That's all in verse nineteen, of course. The lost man is never going to know you love God if you do not *depart from iniquity*. That's *TRUE* separation: it means separated *UNTO* the Gospel. The only way you are going to be separated from evil is to make absolutely sure you're not living in sin, my friend. Some men today are great at asserting doctrine, and incessantly insist how fundamental in the faith they are; but if you talk to them long enough, you'll discover *MANY* of them are living in abject disobedience to God. Some love money – some have had an affair – others are dishonest in business....

***20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.***

***21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.***

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with the sixth and seventh figure of speech: the sixth is the *vessel*. There are many different kinds and types of vessels. Remember, in Jeremiah, he took us to the potter's house where we saw the potter making a vessel. We are to be vessels of honor. That means we have to be a clean vessel. Picture a home where there is a clean kitchen with clean glasses and plates. We would eat and drink from them. By contrast, it doesn't matter how clean the toilet is, you wouldn't drink from the toilet – unless there was something seriously wrong with you – or you were a dog; and no matter how clean the bathroom floor is, you wouldn't eat off of the floor – unless you were an animal. Well, let's be clean vessels worthy of honor in

