Introduction

There is a place for everyone to serve in the body of Christ.

When we use our gifts to serve others and work together, there is great joy.

What kind of vessel do we want to be?

I. A Noble Vessel. II Timothy 2:20-21

The church is a mixture of people.

It is like the Parable of the Weeds in Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43. Sometimes that can be confusing to people – especially to kids.

Follow those who follow Christ.

Be a noble vessel – Know your calling.

- You are a child of the King.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” I Peter 2:9

- You are an ambassador for Christ. II Corinthians 5:20

- You are a temple of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 6:19

II. A Clean Vessel. II Timothy 2:21-22

There is a part we must do and there is a part God must do.

- “If a man cleanses himself...” We can choose who we listen to, what we watch, what we read, who we hang around with. These choices make a huge difference in the person we become.

- “Made holy” – Only God can make us holy. It is a work of the Holy Spirit. It is called sanctification.

We are called to
• Put off the old way of life. “Flee the evil desires of youth.”
• Put on the new self, created to be like Christ. “Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.”

“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:31-33

III. A Ready Vessel. II Timothy 2:21, 23-26

Ready for service. “Prepared to do any good work.”

“Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Timothy needed to take the bull by the horns and confront the challenge facing his church – false teachers – yet do it with wisdom and grace.

You are the Lord’s servant.
• Teach with gentleness.
• Pray that God will grant repentance.

You can win an argument and close a heart at the same time.

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” I Peter 3:15

Conclusion

The theme for VBS this week was Stand strong!

If we are going to be useful to the Master, we need to be

• A Noble Vessel – know your calling.
• A Clean Vessel – put off the old and put on the new.
• A Ready Vessel – “Here am I. Send me!”