**“The Gentle Art of Correction”**

**(2 Timothy 2:22-26)**

**In today’s text Paul stresses the importance of correcting brethren who are in error. This ministry is needed in the church for the health of the body and to help/rescue the person in error. We can be used of God in this ministry as we are careful to maintain…**

 **I. A Clean Heart (22)**

* **Must Flee** **Sinful Desires**

(1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11)

* **Must Follow** **After Godliness**

(Romans 6:18; 14:19; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:15;

 1 Timothy 6:11)

 **II. A Clear Head (23)**

* **What to Avoid**

(1 Timothy 1:3-4; 4:7; 6:20; Titus 3:9)

* **Why to Avoid This**

(2 Timothy 2:14, 16; James 4:1-2)

**III. A Calming Hope (24)**

* **Remember Who You Are (24a)**

 (Matthew 16:24; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)

* **Remember How to Handle Antagonism (24b)**

(1 Thessalonians 2:7-8; Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:2)

 **IV. A Constructive Help (25-26)**

* **The Right Means of Help (25)**

(Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

* **The Right Motive to Help (26)**

(2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 3:7; Jude 23)

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**(2 Timothy 2:22-26)**

 **Small Group Discussion Guide**

**1. Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26 and share something from Sunday’s study that**

 **was the most interesting or challenging to you, or that raised a question.**

**2. While “youthful lusts” (2:22) include sexual temptations, what are some**

 **other areas of sinful desire we need to flee? Discuss why each of the 4**

 **pursuits mentioned in v.22b are important to help us flee sinful desires**

 **and keep a clean heart.**

**3. Read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:23. How should we relate to someone**

 **who wants to continually debate religious issues that have little or no**

 **bearing on salvation or growth in Christ? How can you know when to**

 **correct someone, and when to just overlook the fault? What are some**

 **biblical guidelines?**

**4. How could understanding the meaning of the word “servant” in**

 **2 Timothy 2:24 help us to be patient even with those who are difficult?**

**5. 2 Timothy 2:26 mentions that some may be caught in “the snare of the**

 **devil.” What does that phrase mean? Is it too late to help someone who**

 **is ensnared? If not, how can we help them?**

**Digging Deeper**

**1 Timothy 6:11 says to “Flee such things…” Read the preceding verses to determine what “things” we are told to flee. Prayerfully evaluate how you are doing in obeying Paul’s strong commands to “Flee” (and keep fleeing!) these things and youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22).**

**The commands in 1 Timothy 6:11 and 2 Timothy 2:22 also exhort us to “follow” (aggressively keep pursuing) specific things. Jot down what these**

**things are, and prayerfully evaluate how you are doing in the pursuit of these things. What action step do you need to take this week to follow after these things (and flee sinful desires)?**