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<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.

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<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

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<sup>16</sup> But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, <sup>17</sup> and their talk will spread like gangrene.

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Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,<sup>18</sup> who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

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<sup>19</sup> But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

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<sup>20</sup> Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

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<sup>21</sup> Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

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<sup>22</sup> So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

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<sup>23</sup> Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

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<sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, <sup>25</sup> correcting his opponents with gentleness.

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God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

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How Do We Live as Authentic Christians?  
**Three Critical Reminders**

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## There is a Right Way to Handle God's Word.

V.19-21

<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth:

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## Rightly Handle

ὀρθοτομέω = orthotomeō

## Cut Straight

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## How to Handle God's Word Rightly?

- Not Divisively = Quarrel over words
- Not Destructively = Ruins its hearers
  - καταστροφή = Katastrophe = Catastrophe
- Not Irreverently = Avoid irreverent babble
- Not Inaccurately = Spread like gangrene
- Not Selfishly = Resurrection already happened

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**There's a Right Way to Live for Jesus.**

V.19-21

<sup>19</sup> But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

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**What are the Signs That I am an Authentic Follower of Jesus?**

- Have I "Departed from Iniquity?"
- Am I Set apart as Holy?
- Am I Useful to the Master?
- Am I Ready for Good Works?

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**There's a Right Way to Respond to God's Kindness.**

V.22-26

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,<sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

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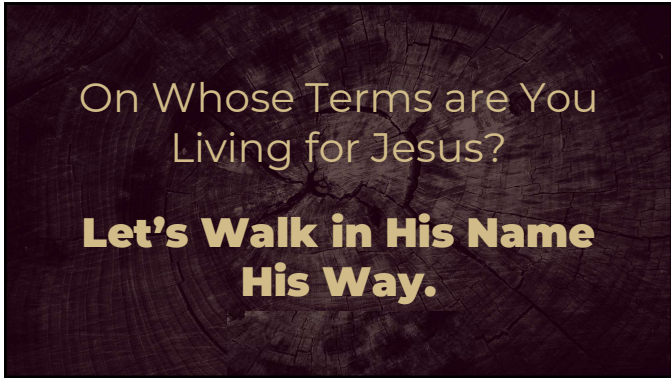
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