

RETHINK, RESET, REFOCUS

— A SERMON SERIES IN 2 TIMOTHY —

GOD CALLS US TO
RETHINK THE LIES,
THE DISTRACTIONS,
AND THE HABITS
THAT DULL OUR FAITH.



GOD CALLS US TO
RESET OUR HEARTS,
OUR PRIORITIES,
AND OUR DIRECTION.

GOD CALLS US TO
REFOCUS ON HIS PURPOSE,
HIS POWER, AND HIS PRESENCE.



Be a Useful Vessel (2 Timothy 2:14-25), August 30, 2026

Shalom Ministries International Worship Service

Bemba worship song.

- Twasumbule Ishina Lyenu
(We Exalt your Name)
Twale To Bukata Kuli Imwe.
(We Bring to you Glory)

Yahweh ee eee
Yahweh ee eee.

- Twasumbula Ishina Lyenu
(We Exalt your Name)
Twasumbula Pamo Nabangeli
(We Exalt it together with the
Angels)

Yahweh ee eee
Yahweh ee eee.

Led by Paul Musembi, the Worship Leader

Intercessory Prayer



Led by Marc Musimbi, Prayer Leader

The Pastor's Work & Word

- A pastor's primary accountability is to God, not to congregational approval, board expectations, or modern metrics of success.
 - Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. **Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.** Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness" (2 Timothy 2:14-19).

Useful or Useless?

- Two articles (vessels): Two groups of pastors/leaders/servants
 - In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
 - The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away (John 10:11-12).

Useful Servants (Pastors, Leaders)	Useless Servants (Pastors, Leaders)
• Fit for service (euchrestos); • Honorable, faithful, spiritually effective leaders; • A pastor who is reliable, serviceable, and fully prepared by their personal integrity and alignment with truth to carry out the Master's work effectively to advance His purposes.	• Common; unusable; unfit for noble service in God's kingdom; false teachers; compromised leaders; • Those who compromise their character through quarrelsome words and ungodly talk; • A person whose character, actions, or teaching render them unfit for sacred service.

Useful Servants (Vessels for Honor)

- Handles truth correctly
 - A worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - You are the man (2 Samuel 12:7).
 - You have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this (Daniel 5:22).
- Purifies themselves
 - Cleanses themselves from ignoble things and flees youthful lusts.
 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).
 - Actively seeks faith, love, and peace alongside other believers.
 - Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Tim 2: 22).
- Gentle and patient
 - Avoids foolish arguments, kind to everyone, able to teach, and gently instructs opponents.
 - And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 2:24-25).

Useless Servants (Vessels for Dishonor)

- Spread false teaching
 - Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some (2 Tim 2:17).
 - You have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:15).
- Word-battling and quarrelsome
 - Captivated by foolish, ignorant arguments that breed quarrels.
 - Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels (2 Tim 2: 23).
 - One of you say, I follow Paul, another I follow Apollos, still another I follow Cephas (1 Cor. 1:12).
- Trapped by the enemy
 - Caught in the devil's snare and doing his will rather than God's.
 - King Saul became so consumed by jealousy toward David that he hunted him down repeatedly. He thought he was protecting his kingdom, but he was trapped in bitterness and performing evil actions against God's chosen plan.

This Process Is Changeable

- Second chance success
 - A useless servant/vessel can become useful by cleansing himself (John Mark, Onesimus, Jonah).
 - Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work (2 Timothy 2:21).
 - Anyone willing to repent, abandon foolish quarrels, and anchor themselves in sound doctrine can move from a compromised state into being a trusted, honorable instrument for the Master's use.
- You can move from being destructive to being useful and restored.
 - The invitation to cleanse: A vessel made of common material in an ancient house isn't permanently locked into that status; a person can turn away from dishonor and choose a path of holiness.
 - The hope for repentance by gently instructing opponents.
 - Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

Rethink Your Communication Style

- Seeking God's approval rather than winning human arguments.
 - Always adopt a servant's posture: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved (2 Tim 2:15).
 - Shifting from a mindset of trivial debate and theological speculation to one of truth, diligence, and reverence.
- Rethink communication from debating to truth telling
 - Stop useless arguments: Avoid word battles and godless chatter that ruin the listeners.
 - Focus on the core message: Be a workman who correctly handles and teaches the word of truth.
- Recommendations
 - Filter your inputs: Audit what you read, watch, and debate online or in person. Ask yourself: "Is this building up my faith, or is it just godless chatter?"
 - Are you focusing more on the chatter of external growth, or are you correctly handling the word of truth in your own life first?
 - Study to stand approved: Dedicate consistent time to anchoring your mind in scripture so you can handle truth accurately.

Reset Your Behavioral and Relational Habits

- Focusing on personal sanctification
 - A transformed mindset must lead to altered habits.
 - Fleeing temptation, pursuing righteousness, and choosing a clean environment. It also addresses how we respond to difficult or opposing people—shifting from hostility to gentleness.
 - To be an instrument for special purposes, one must cleanse oneself (2 Tim 2:20-21).
 - Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Tim 2:22).
- Recommendations
 - Run and pursue: Identify one regular habit or environment you need to flee from, and one holy habit (or community of believers) you need to actively pursue.
 - Purifying your personal life to remain a usable vessel and choosing kindness over defensiveness under pressure.

Refocus Your Ministry by Aligning with God's Mission

- Remember the purpose of your life:
 - It is the redemption of others, not personal comfort or winning arguments. The goal of the preacher is deliverance, not winning an argument.
 - See others come to repentance and escape spiritual captivity, which mirrors God's heart for salvation.
 - Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will (2 Tim 2:25-26).
- Recommendations
 - Shift from winning to winning over: Stop viewing difficult people as the enemy to defeat and start viewing them as captives who need to be rescued by God's grace.
 - Keep the main thing the main thing: Evaluate your current church or personal ministry activities. Ensure that your energy is going toward teaching truth and guiding people toward repentance, rather than maintaining religious routines.