

October 7, 2020

Nevertheless

For the next few weeks, we will be meditating upon **II Timothy 2:19-23**. This passage begins with the transitional word, nevertheless. The word nevertheless means notwithstanding or to proceed without regarding or being prevented. Whatever Paul is about to tell us, we are to proceed without regard to what he has just told us. Therefore, if we are to understand this passage in context, we must consider what Paul said previously in this chapter.

Take a moment to read **II Timothy 2:1-18**. Paul begins in verses 1-14 with our spiritual warfare and the necessity of enduring hardness. There are times in the Christian life when things will be difficult. Suffering is a part of life and as believers, we are not exempt from such suffering. Then in verses 15-18 Paul addresses the necessity of studying God's Word lest we be deceived by false teachers. Notice verse 16. Profane and vain babblings will increase unto more ungodliness. With the rise of the internet and social media, we have definitely seen an increase in profane and vain babblings. The end result is more ungodliness. While the internet and social media can be used for good, much of it is worldly, deceptive, profane, and divisive. As believers we must be very careful about the things we see, read, and share on social media. Turn over to Paul's epistle to Titus and read **Titus 3:8-11**. Paul warns us to avoid foolish questions, contentions, and strivings. How much of the current news deals with foolishness and contention?

Now come back to II Timothy 2:17. The word canker means to grow corruptly and speaks of a cancer. We hear a lot about false news and false advertising. The media has a way of presenting the facts to fit their narrative or tell their story. Such reporting is not unbiased. Political advertisements use false or deceptive claims to attack opponents. Eventually the public becomes so confused, they don't know who or what to believe. As a result, they are susceptible to believing anything.

As you listen to news reports or peruse social media, what things cause you to be discouraged? Take time this week to keep a list of things you see that trouble you. Then during your daily personal time with God, pray about each item on your list. Ask God to overrule and help you overcome your anxiety. If your list seems to be lengthy, consider how much time you spend in God's Word in comparison to listening to the world? If you find this week's meditation to be discouraging, keep enduring, because next week we will look at the first phrase in verse 19, "the foundation of God standeth sure..."