

## 2 Timothy 2:20-22

### Useful Vessels

*Household items ...*

#### I. Prepared for Use

A. Cleansed

B. Filled

#### II. In God's Great House

A. Holy Vessels

B. Useful to Our Master

*... ready for every good work.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What are some ways you see people serving in your church?
2. What will help us to serve with joy?
3. You are young now, but you can still serve in the church. How might you help?
4. What ways might you want to serve in the church when you grow up?

### **Make Yourself Useful**

There are a number of places in Scripture where believers are reminded that they are all to take part in the functionality of church work. Paul uses the illustration of a body in two places to drive home the point. You can find it in both Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. It is assumed that every true member has something valuable to contribute to the life and ministry of the church. While Paul is addressing Timothy, a church leader, the principle applies to every believer. In this passage Paul contrasts useful vessels to useless that both exist in a "big house." Believers are the useful ones by virtue of being the Lord's precious possession. Interestingly the apostle urges the reader to make sure they are maintaining usefulness, not so much by doing more things, but by investing themselves in regular pursuit of some basics of truth faith and spiritual growth: righteousness, faith, love, and peace. Action and attributes are never mutually exclusive. Take away these four things and our functional service is hollow. Take away service and those virtues prove to be footless piety.