

iniquity (II Timothy 2:19).

2. To what is Paul referring in II Timothy 2:20,21?
(see also I Timothy 3:15; Romans 9:21) _____

3. (a) Timothy is instructed to flee youthful lusts in II Timothy 2:22, but what is he instructed to follow? (same verse) _____

- (b) In II Timothy 2:23, What is Timothy instructed to avoid? _____

In these verses (22-26) Paul returns to his constructive admonitions (warnings) concerning Timothy's personal conduct. In 23 he emphasizes the tact and restraint which should characterize the younger man's leadership: **But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.** While refusing to compromise with error, he must nevertheless avoid an unwarranted degree of rigor (strictness) in his denunciation of it. In Christian leadership one must not allow his zeal for the truth to betray him into a quarrelsome

spirit. There is no substitute for a spirit of kindness and love in dealing with those who are one's opponents. This point is clearly made in 24: **And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.** What a lovely cluster of Christian virtues this is! And the list is augmented (increased) by 25: **In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;** that is, those who place themselves in opposition to his message. The real purpose of disciplinary action is not alone the vindicating (justifying) of the truth, but also the recovery to Christ's fellowship of those who are led astray by false teaching: **If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will** (25-26). The misfortune which has befallen these false teachers is not alone ignorance and headstrong determination to propagate (spread) falsehood; it is equally true that they have been deceived and duped (tricked) by Satan. They are entrapped in his snare and are his captives. Yet God hopes to recover and save them; He yearns to grant them **repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.** ¹

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 646; with some additions by this author.