

# TRUSTING GOD

Soul-winning  
Prov. 11:30

Prov. 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and  
**he that winneth souls is wise.**

When asked if they have a personal responsibility to share their faith with others, 73% of born again Christians said yes. When this conviction is put into practice, however, the numbers shift downward. Only half (52%) of born again Christians say they actually did share the Gospel at least once this past year to someone with different beliefs, in the hope that they might accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

<https://www.barna.com/research/is-evangelism-going-out-of-style/>



2 Tim. 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

## I. A CHURCH HAS MUCH DIVERSITY

2 Tim. 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

A. The Realm of Dignity – “...in a great house...”

B. The Reality of Diversity – “...vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.”

## II. A CHURCH MEMBER MULLS DECISIONS

2 Tim. 2:21 **If** a man therefore purge himself from these, **he shall be a vessel unto honour**, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

### A. A Church Member has the Option to be a Vessel unto Honor

**Original Word:** ἐκκαθαίρω

**Transliteration:** ekkathairó

**Definition:** I clean (cleanse) out, clean thoroughly.

*ekkathairō* (from *ek*, "completely out" and *katharós*, "purge, cleanse") – "cleanse *out*, clean *thoroughly*" (J. Thayer) with the *outcome* of deeper sanctification.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1571.htm>

## B. A Church Member has the Opportunity to be a Vessel unto Honor

- “meet” = useful, profitable

**Original Word:** εὐχρηστος

**Transliteration:** euchréstos

**Definition:** useful, serviceable, very profitable.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2173.htm>

2 Cor. 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, **may abound to every good work:**

Col. 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work**, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, **to be ready to every good work,**

Heb. 13:21 **Make you perfect in every good work** to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Tim. 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

### III. A CHRISTIAN MAKES DISCIPLES

#### A. The Sanctification of the Soul-winner

2 Tim. 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, **sanctified**, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord **out of a pure heart.**

- The soul-winner must be “clean” and “sanctified.”

Isa. 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!



- The sanctified believer flees: “Flee also youthful lusts...”
- The sanctified believer follows: “...: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, **with them** that call on the Lord **out of a pure heart.**”

## B. The Separation of the Soul-winner

- In order to be useable for God, the believer must be a “vessel unto honour.”
- The options have been given:

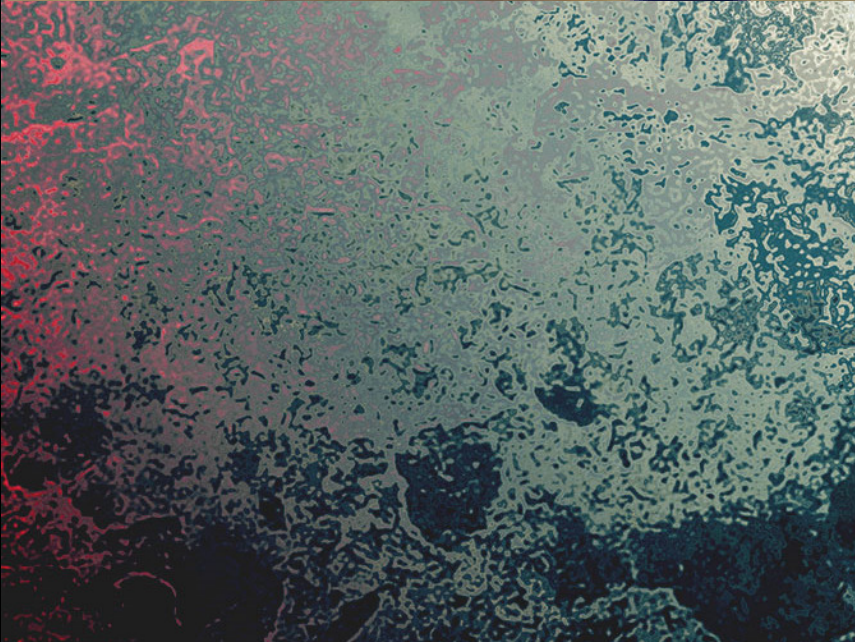
Which would you rather drink from?



or



Which would you rather eat from?



Which “vessel” is more usable to God?



- The characteristics and objectives of the soul-winner.

2 Tim. 2:23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

- Stays focused and avoid foolish questions.

2 Tim. 2:23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

- Be kind, but not confrontational. Be patient.

2 Tim. 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

- Be confident. Work toward repentance.

2 Tim. 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

- Remember redemption!

2 Tim. 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

## Conclusion

Eph. 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others.

Isa. 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: **I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.** These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Jn. 12:46 **I am come a light into the world**, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Acts 26:18 To **open their eyes**, and to **turn them from darkness to light**, and **from the power of Satan unto God**, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins**, and **inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me**.



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