

“A Worker Who Does Not Need to Be Ashamed”

2 Tim. 2:15

Introduction:

- A. Timothy was God's worker (workman).
 - 1. Did work of evangelist. (2 Tim. 4:5)
 - 2. Did work of training teachers. (2 Tim. 2:2).
 - 3. Did not need to be ashamed of self or work (1 Tim. 4:16)
- B. God's worker do not need to be ashamed if he meets two conditions:

Discussion:

I. If He Strives for God's Approval.

- A. “Approved *to God*”. (v. 4; cf 1 Thess. 4:1)
 - 1. Not man. (Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 4:1-5)
 - 2. Yet, not totally insensitive to man's approval. (Rom. 15:1,2; 1 Cor. 9:22,23; 10:32-33)
- B. “Give *diligence*.” (cf. Heb. 11:6).
 - 1. Suggests extra effort. - “exert oneself” - Vines
 - a. Hardship. (v. 3)
 - b. Hard work (v. 6)
 - 2. Suggests extra care.
 - a. To avoid double loyalty. (v. 4)
 - b. To keep the rules. (v. 6).

II. If He Handles Aright God's Word.

- A. Need to start with this verse!
 - 1. Not merely a command to study the Bible.
 - a. Comparable to “study to be quite” (1 Thess. 4:11).
 - b. Same word (spoudazo) translated: endeavor, diligence, zealous (cf. 4:9, 21; Eph 4:3)
 - c. Involves Bible study.
 - (1) Close connection with handling the word.
 - (2) Must search scriptures to be approved of God. (cf. Acts 17:11).
 - 2. Not merely a command to divide Bible into proper sections.
 - a. Literally “to cut straight”: keep it straight; do things right.
 - b. Other translations say “handle aright” (ASV) or “correctly handle” (NIV).
 - c. To rightly divide or proportion it out to benefit hearers rather than to their ruin (cf. v. 14)
- B. Need to correctly understand and apply the word of truth.
 - 1. Rather than “profane and vain babblings” - useless speculations. (v. 16; 1 Tim. 6:20).
 - a. Not profitable. (vs. 14).
 - b. Dangerous. (vs. 16-18).
 - c. Divisive. (vs. 23-26).
 - 2. Rather than careless and inaccurate interpretations and applications.
 - a. “Simplicity in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3)
 - (1) Simplicity or undivided loyalty - (vs. 2,4) cf. Dup. or Multip.
 - (2) Some things hard to understand -- takes effort. (2 Pet. 3:16).
 - b. Did Jesus break Sabbath? (Matt. 12:1-8).
 - c. Was Paul against baptism? (1 Cor. 1:14).
 - d. Does Bible forbid wearing gold? (1 Pet. 3:3)
 - e. Is it wrong to have a kitchen in church house?

Conclusion:

- A. One must give diligence that his every act is approved of God.
- B. One must live so as to be unashamed before God.
- C. One must handle the word of God aright - honestly, fairly, accurately.