

2 Timothy 2:15

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Warm Springs Road church of Christ

Text: 2 Tim. 2:15

Thesis: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Intro.

1. Bible study is definitely something we all need to do more of.
2. Every preacher could even say that.
3. But we cannot spend all of our time in Bible study.
4. We have to have balance.
5. We have to balance Bible studying, Bible living, Bible teaching, and Bible resting.
6. Study can be exhausting, it's hard work.
7. An actively engaged mind will wear one out just as much as an actively engaged body.
8. Sadly, some of us do only one or the other - mind or body, and as little of either one as we can get away with.
9. If we are living properly balanced lives we will make time to study God's Word.
10. I'd like to say we have to, we must, study God's Word on a daily basis, but I'm afraid sometimes that's just not possible.
11. But certainly we have to dedicate some time in Bible study on a regular basis.
12. The amount of time we spend in real study, not just reading, can't be zero.
13. We have a verse that tells us how important study is, and we are going to examine that verse this morning.
14. 2 Tim. 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
15. Let's look at every part of this verse to try to get a sense of just how important and necessary real Bible study is, not just reading, but study.

Discussion

I. Study

- A. Spoudazo - be diligent, endeavor, labor, study
 1. From spoude - speed
 2. Indicates the urgency and importance of the matter.
 3. Not the same word study in 1 The. 4:11 - study to be quiet (find a way to make it happen)
 4. We know what we have before us - the word of truth, and it is an urgent matter to study it.
- B. Compare this to a person studying a painting in a museum.
 1. You may not have any clue what's going on there, just a bunch of shapes and colors and lines and who knows what.
 2. But that person who is studying and knows what they are looking for is trying very hard to understand the intent of the painter.
 3. He is being diligent comparing the colors and the shapes and the angles to come to a conclusion about why the painter painted just that picture.
 4. He is studying the picture, he is endeavoring to understand that painting.
- C. Studying God's word carries with it some sense of speed though because we understand how powerful what we have is.
- D. It is important for us to give every precaution to knowing the intent of the author of the word of truth.

II. To shew thyself approved

- A. To shew = to present (Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 4:14), to yield
 1. We will appear before the judgment seat (2 Cor. 5:10).
 2. If we want to be approved when we present ourselves on that day, we must give diligence, study!
- B. Approved - current after assayal (examination or analyzation).
 1. There will be an examination and an analyzation on the day we appear before the judgment seat (2 Cor. 5:10).

2. In order to be current, approved, on that day, careful examination of the word of truth must be undertaken.

C. Implied here is the idea that we can come to the understanding of what the artist was trying to portray.

1. If there is going to be a day where we present ourselves, and we will be examined or analyzed on that day, and the only way to be approved after that examination is by our diligence in and towards the word of truth, then the truth within that word must be attainable.
2. God will not hold us accountable for something we cannot do.
3. We can find the truth in the word of truth, and God will hold us accountable for doing so, but that requires diligence in the search for it.
4. So get out there and get doing it!

III. Unto God

A. A large majority of those studying the word of truth today do so to find approval of men.

1. They have their reward (Mat. 6:2, 5, 16).
2. They have their TV shows, and their fancy cars, and their beautiful robes, but they lack the approval of God.
3. After their examination and analysis, they will be found wanting because their desire in their diligence toward the word of truth was not to find approval of God, but of men.

B. God's approval

1. How do we know when we have it?
 - a) Jesus had it - Mat. 3:17; 17:5
 - b) The Israelites did not - 1 Cor. 10:5
 - c) We can have it - Heb. 13:16 (cf. Jam. 1:27)
2. We have God's approval when we are diligently examining the word of truth, and when we are using what we find there to spur us to practicing that pure religion God desires.

IV. A workman

A. Ergon = work (ergonomics - the study of people's proficiency in their working environment)

1. What this is saying is that study is a work.
 - a) If diligence can be given to it, then it is a work.
 - b) Study is a work, and the Christian graces are works (2 Pet. 1:5-9)
 - (1) Adding virtue to faith is a work.
 - (2) Adding knowledge to virtue is a work.
 - (3) Adding patience to knowledge is a work.
 - (4) Adding godliness to patience is a work.
 - (5) Adding brotherly kindness to godliness is a work.
 - (6) Adding charity to brotherly kindness is a work.
2. But this is also saying that studying leads you to be a workman.
 - a) The more you study the more you want to work.
 - b) The more you study the more you will work to add those Christian graces.
 - c) The word of truth is the only place you will find those works (Gal. 5:23 - against such there is no law).

V. Needeth not to be ashamed (unashamed).

A. Anepaischuntos - irreprehensible, cannot be made to be ashamed.

1. Diligence in the word of truth leads one to do the works that no one will ever make a law against.
2. 1 Cor. 13:13 - the greatest of these is charity

B. This workman has nothing of which to be ashamed.

1. He is practicing that pure religion (Jam. 1:27).
2. He is like Christ (1 Pet. 2:22 - neither was guile found in his mouth).
3. He is not like those who study the word of truth to be approved of men.
 - a) Pride is something to be ashamed of.
 - b) Humility is never shameful.

VI. Rightly dividing (handling aright)

A. Orthotomeo - to make a straight cut, to dissect correctly.

1. What happens when a surgeon makes the wrong incision?
2. Here we find that the word of truth can be handled correctly and incorrectly.
 - a) Truth is unbiased, unequivocal, unshakable, and does not take anyone's side.
 - b) Truth is law.

- c) Truth can be misapplied, misappropriated, misunderstood, and misrepresented.
- d) That is not handling the word of truth aright, that's handling it awrong.
- 3. Rightly dividing does not mean putting proper page breaks, paragraph marks, or chapter and verse divisions.
 - a) Rightly dividing means handling the truth in such a way that you have nothing of which to be ashamed.
 - b) For many that won't be known until that day when we stand for approval before God.
 - c) Think of it like cutting a pie.
 - (1) Big people get big pieces.
 - (2) Little pieces get little pieces until they grow.
 - i) The word of truth is profitable for just that (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
 - ii) But it must be handled aright in order to know who gets which piece.
- 4. I think that most mishandling of the word of truth comes from people not knowing when a person needs a particular piece.
 - a) Every scripture applies to every person, but maybe not right now.
 - b) It eventually will.
 - c) But that is why we have to be diligent in our study.
 - d) Because eventually we will use the whole pie.

VII. The word of truth.

- A. The word - logos - something said (by God here); the Divine Expression
 - 1. When God utters words, wonderful things happen.
 - 2. He opens his mouth here and only here now.
 - 3. Wonderful things happen when we give diligence to the utterances of God's mouth.
- B. Of truth - aletheia
 - 1. Truth is knowable, it is objective, and it is fully revealed (2 Pet. 1:3).
 - 2. The only way to it is through giving diligence.

Conclusion

- 1. Really in this verse you have the reason, the reward, and the rule of study.
- 2. The reason to study is to be approved of God, unashamed.
- 3. The reward of study is it turns us into workmen.
- 4. The rule of study is proper handling, cutting straight.
- 5. Faith is necessary to be approved unto God (Heb. 11:6).
- 6. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).
- 7. Faith leads to repentance (Acts 2:37).
- 8. Faith leads to confession (Acts 8:37).
- 9. Faith leads to baptism (Acts 22:16).
- 10. Faith leads to faithfulness (1 Cor. 4:2).
- 11. Faith arises from proper handling of the word of truth.