

APPROVED UNTO GOD

2 TIMOTHY 2:15





What do you view the Bible as?

Introduction



2 TIMOTHY 4:6–8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2 TIMOTHY 4:6–8

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.



**Which of the 3 verbs is a
command?**

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

I. The Command - Be Diligent



**A. Different ways the
word is translated:**



1. Make every effort
2Tim 4:9-10



2 TIMOTHY 4:9–10

9 Make every effort to come to me soon;

10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

2. Was eager Gal 2:10



GALATIANS 2:10

They only asked us to remember the poor—the very thing I also was eager to do.

3. Be diligent Heb 4:11



HEBREWS 4:11

Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.

**B. Three Illustrations
given in this chapter**



1. A soldier



2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

3 Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

2. An athlete



2 TIMOTHY 2:5

Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

3. A farmer



2 TIMOTHY 2:6

6 The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Be diligent to **present**
yourself approved to God as a
workman who does not need
to be ashamed, accurately
handling the word of truth.

II. Present yourself approved to God



A. Present ourselves to God



1. Not to present ourselves to men for approval
2. Our focus should be on God, not men



A. Present ourselves to God
B. Approved



Illustration: Refining Silver



Refining Silver

Stage 1: The natural ore broken up



Stage 1: The Breaking

Refining Silver
Stage 2:
Unrefined silver
placed into a
crucible



Stage 2: The Crucible

Refining Silver
Stage 3: As
crucible is
heated up,
dross floats up



Stage 3: The Dross

Refining Silver
Stage 4: The
temperature
raised to higher
degrees



Stage 4: The Heat

Refining Silver
Stage 5:
Continues to
remove the
impurities



Stage 5: The Purification

Refining Silver
Stage 6: Sees
a clear image
of himself



Stage 6: The Reflection

ISAIAH 48:10

“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

JAMES 1:2–4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

JAMES 1:2-4

4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 PETER 1:6–7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1 PETER 1:6–7

7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

III. Accurately Handling the Word of Truth



A. Accurately handling



A. Accurately handling
B. The Word of Truth



1 PETER 2:1–3

1 Therefore, putting aside
all malice and all deceit
and hypocrisy and envy
and all slander,

1 PETER 2:1–3

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

1 PETER 2:1–3

3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1–3

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1–3

2 I gave you milk to drink,
not solid food; for you were
not yet able *to receive it*.
Indeed, even now you are
not yet able,

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1–3

3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

HEBREWS 5:12–14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

HEBREWS 5:12–14

13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

HEBREWS 5:12–14

14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17

17 so that the man of God
may be adequate, equipped
for every good work.

C. Like Ezra, we should:

1. Study the Word

2. Apply it to our lives and

3. Teach others



EZRA 7:10

10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

2Thessalonians 1

Precept Inductive Bible Study Marking System

1. Mark the obvious:
 - A. People
 - B. Places
 - C. Events
2. Make a list of what the text says about what you mark

Gospel Came, Thessalonians Received and Sounded Forth

- 1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;
- 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,
- 4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;
- 5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.
- 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
- 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.
- 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,
- 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.



What do you do during your commute to work or school?

Conclusion



- God is looking for faithful workers.
- The true measure of ministry is not applause today but approval from God.
- When we diligently live before God and accurately handle His Word, we can stand unashamed.



Closing Challenge



- Are you diligent or drifting?
- Are you seeking God's approval or people's praise?
- How are you handling God's Word?

