

**The Practice of the Word:
HOW God's Word can Change Your Life
2 Timothy 2:15 -- Michael Young**

GOAL: Listeners will understand the importance of hermeneutics (`interpreting & applying God's Word) so that they can live according to God's Will

To Know: how the Devil mis-applied the Biblical Psalms to Jesus when he tempted him to throw himself off the temple.

How to study the Bible themselves

How to have a daily quiet time

To Feel: a sense of responsibility to study the Word via Weekly Worship, Daily Devotions, Regular Small Group study;

a desire to give God one's best

To Do: avoid a misapplication of God's Word by focusing on minutia and ignoring the weighty matters of the Christian life; practice OIA in study of God's Word; participate in the three Christian Habits: Daily QT, Weekly Worship, Consistent Small Group involvement.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

INTRO

- Two key doctrines: Inerrancy & Hermeneutics

Series Context

- last week, the Truth of the Word (inerrancy)
- this week, how to Apply that Truth (hermeneutics)

The importance of correctly handling the Word of Truth

- *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

THE IMPORTANCE OF HERMENEUTICS

- This is called the science of HERMENEUTICS, or accurately interpreting the Word of God; that is what (2 Tim. 2:15) is all about.
- Is it possible to speak words of truth, and apply it in completely the wrong way? Yes, for Satan did this.

Psalm 91	Satan in Matthew 4:6
11 For he will command his angels concerning you	For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you in all your ways;	
12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. (NIV)	and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' (NIV)

- Amazing! Satan is quoting the Bible!
- ILLUSTRATION of Satan accurately quoting the Bible when he tempted Jesus! But if he is the 'father of lies' how can that be?
- **What was the lie?**
- Q: Where was the lie, from "the father of all lies"?
- **A: The lie was not in the Quotation, but in the Application (the hermeneutics)**
- The problem was not that Satan left out the middle phrase, "*to guard you in all your ways*" (D.A.Carson), as that does not substantially change the meaning of the text.
- The problem was in the application. Jesus did not say to Satan, 'hey you misquoted that verse'; Jesus said, "You applied it wrongly; that is, don't test the Lord."
- The verse was a promise of **protection**, not a promise for **presumption**.
- "Satan's deceit lay in misapplying his quotation into a temptation...Jesus is tempted to test his sonship ('If you are the son of God') against God's pledge to protect his own." (Carson, Matthew 4:1-11, pp.113-114)
- Satan said "If you are the Son of God, ... PROVE YOURSELF!" but Jesus Son of God, did not have to prove Himself to anybody.
- This verse is about trusting God, NOT testing God!
- Exodus 17 forbids putting God to the test, "Do not test the Lord your God".
- Satan turned a Promise into a Temptation.

- Jesus response shows that Satan applied the verse in a sinful, deceitful way: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” (Mt. 4:7 & Dt. 6:16)
- **KEY: It is possible to accurately quote the Word, and wrongly apply it.**
- this is why hermeneutics, or the process of understanding & applying the Word of God is so critically important.

The Text for this week: 2 Timothy 2:15

- *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*
- Last week, is it true? This week, if true, how does it work?
- This a famous AWANA verse...
- **This verse is about Attitude, Actions, and Approval.**
- Excellent Attitude + Diligent Actions = God’s Approval
- --> **Your ATTITUDE and your ACTIONS toward God’s Word will determine God’s APPROVAL of you.**

Two Parts to Winning God’s Approval:

1. Your ATTITUDE: Give God Your Best

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved...” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Context of our Passage -- 2 Timothy Chapter Two

- 2 Timothy 2:1-2 - Strong Discipleship

Six Metaphors to show Strength & Diligence:

#1: SOLDIER (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

- “endure hardship like a good soldier”

#2: ATHLETE (2 Timothy 2:5)

- compete as an athlete “for the victor’s crown”

#3: FARMER (2 Timothy 2:6-7)

- “the hardworking farmer”

#4: WORKMAN (2 Timothy 2:14-19)

- strive to be an approved workman

#5: VESSEL (2 Timothy 2:20-22)

- “be an instrument for noble purposes”

#6: SERVANT (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

- “the Lord’s servant”

- In the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy; Titus) major focus upon the word “Truth”. What could be the significance of this?
- Those who would be teacher’s of the Word, must be focused on truth.
- They must not only avoid False Teaching; they must avoid anything which is not focused upon the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.

T - another important contextual clue about our verse and its focus on the truth, is that we should avoid anything which distracts us from the truth...

Remember Jesus Christ (2Timothy 2:8)

Avoid these Three Distractions to Scripture Study:

1. QUARRELING

Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. (2Timothy 2:14)

- Lit, “word fighting”; arguing about words;

2. Godless CHATTER

Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. (2Timothy 2:16)

- “empty worldly words” or ‘words emptied of any truth or meaning’; like sugar, which is nothing but empty calories, these would be words that are fun to ‘chatter’ about, but don’t do anything in terms of health.

3. Foolish & Stupid SPECULATIONS

Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. (2Timothy 2:23)

- “foolish & stupid speculations”
- 1 Tim 1:7 “They want to be teachers of the Law but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.”

- *** Confidence does NOT = KNOWLEDGE of the Truth ***

- The guy who predicted the end of the world for May 21st (and now Oct. 21st), said that he was “absolutely, totally convinced” that it would happen on May 21st. He didn’t have a doubting bone in his body. **BUT HE WAS COMPLETELY WRONG!**
- Summary: **Instead of quarreling, chattering, and speculating, just focus on the simple Gospel Truth of Jesus.** He lived, died for our sins, and rose again. Help people to know and believe that and you will be helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

THE NEED FOR TRUTH

Your word is truth. -- Jesus (John 17:17)

- God is saying
- And so I want to show you today how you can tap into the truth and use it for your benefit. Because truth contains within it, its own reward.
- It was designed to change you and this world for the better. Truth is one of the blessings that God has given to this world because He loves its.

Two Parts to Winning God’s Approval:

1. Your ATTITUDE: Fully Believe and Deeply Desire

- When it comes to God’s Word, give God your best!
- Your Attitude towards the Word, will determine your altitude in God’s kingdom.
- If you take a complacent, it’s not so important, attitude towards the Word, you will not receive the inherent blessing which comes to anyone who studies, loves and follows the teaching in God’s Word.
- God’s Word blesses those who give it their best.

2. Your ACTIONS: Work Hard to Study & Learn

- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- --> **Your ATTITUDE and your ACTIONS toward God’s Word will determine God’s APPROVAL of you.**

Let's look at your ACTION!

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Four Words to Know from this Passage:

1. “DO YOUR BEST” (Spoudoso) (spoo-do-so)

- What is your best effort?
- **Greek:** spoudason seauton dokimon parastesai to theo. ergaten anepaischunton. orthotomounta ton logon tes aletheias.
Amplified: Study and be eager and do your utmost
Darby: Strive diligently
Wuest: Bend your every effort to present yourself
Young's Literal: be diligent to present thyself

2. “APPROVED” (Dokimos) (doc-key-moss)

Donald Barnhouse has the following interesting explanation of **dokimos** writing that

In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into moulds and allowed to cool. When the coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft and of course many people shaved them closely. In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens, to stop the practice of shaving down the coins then in circulation. But some money changers were men of integrity, who would accept no counterfeit money. They were men of honor who put only genuine full weighted money into circulation. Such men were called "**dokimos**" or "**approved**"

3. “WORKMAN” (Ergatein) (

Workers of the Word can:

1. Build -- **build up** spiritually
2. Measure -- see if we **measure up** to God's standards
3. Repair -- **fix-up** what is not true, straight, or what is broken

4. “CORRECTLY HANDLES” (Orthotomounta)

- Lit, “to cut a straight furrow” or “board”;

- you don't want a carpenter who can't cut a straight line;

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These words show us the way to handle God's Word and the importance God puts on the handling of God's Word.

Three Actions to Stay Strong!:

1. Daily DEVOTIONS

- read the Word every day;
- daily bread;
- ** God's Word - fresh bread for every day's needs

2. Weekly WORSHIP

- weekly teaching of God's Word, both in worship & SS
- Sing God's Word and teach God's Word in a large group

3. Regular SMALL GROUP

- Why small group?
- group discussion and application of God's Word.
- It is one thing to read various teachings in God's Word, and it is another to figure out how to apply them to your particular life situation. The value of a small group, is that ability to share life and figure out application of God's Word to your particular situation.
- T - study of God's Word is important, and just to help you out, I've supplied you with the notes a separate attachment with three Bible study tools.
- *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

Three Bible Study Tools

APPLICATION - THREE TOOLS (attached sheet)

TOOL #1: DAILY BIBLE READING (Bible Reading Record)

- I want you to make a commitment to read God's Word through this year. Start using this chart, and mark it off; there may be sections of God's Word that you have never read!
- Hey, I don't want to get up to heaven and meet Habbakuk, and have him say, "How did you like my book in the Bible?" and say, "Uh, Haba-who? Don't think I've heard of you!" "I'm in the book man! I've written part of God's Holy Inspired Word!" "Hey Isaiah come meet this guy; he never read my book! I bet he read yours though - everybody reads your book, even though its so long; mine is just 3 chapters long!"
- Anyway, you don't want to have that conversation, so go read the Bible!

TOOL #2: OIA BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1. OBSERVATION - What does it say?
 2. INTERPRETATION - What does it mean?
 3. APPLICATION - What does it mean to me?
- use the OIA method as you read each day during your Daily Devotions.

TOOL #3: SPECS Application Questions

S - Sin to avoid

P - Promise to claim

E - Example to follow

C - Command to obey

S - Spiritual Truth to know

- final method, is a great way to APPLY God's Word to your life.

CONCLUSION:

- *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*
- --> **Your ATTITUDE and your ACTIONS toward God's Word will determine God's APPROVAL of you.**
- We are ultimately seeking **God's approval.**
- You can have this; but only if you play by God's rules.

- THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN BEING ASHAMED, OR BEING APPROVED.
- If you focus on the Word, the Word will focus its truth and power on you, and you will be changed, and have God's approval.
- The blessing of Truth & Power
- reflexive nature of God's Word (you focus on it, and it's truth and power is focused on you)
 - i. examples: focus on fishing, fills your life with fish
 - ii. focus on exercise, fills your life with fit muscles
 - iii. focus on study of God's word, fills your life with the truth & power of God's Word.
 - iv. We complain, God why don't you bless me, and then we take no action to procure that blessing; that is like saying, 'God why don't you make me healthy, and then never exercise, or saying to our boss at work, "why don't you pay me?' and then never show up for work.
 - v. If you want truth and power in your life, God has decreed that it is yours for the taking; simply open up His word and enjoy "YOur word is like honey on my lips"

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PRAYER