

Accurately Handling the Word of Truth

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If you want to be a student of the Bible, you need to know how to accurately handle the Word of Truth. This is the message that is the subject of Paul's letter to Timothy, the book of 2nd Timothy. The context of 2nd Timothy is a letter to an evangelist. 2nd Timothy 2 speaks to the qualifications and obligations of an evangelist. 2nd Timothy 3 gives directions as to how to work. Finally, 2nd Timothy 4 contains the charge to the evangelist. The center of the text offers us this insight: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15).*

First consider the implication of the application of diligence, which is the effort and exertion to learn. The King James Version uses the word "study" which speaks to the painstaking application of effort. We need to remember that we won't learn the Bible "here" alone; diligence is outside the assembly too.

Second consider the purpose of diligence: To present yourself to God unashamed. Specifically, to be presented as a workman. That is our purpose; service to God.

Finally consider the command pertaining to rightly dividing and accurately handling. Anyone can handle the Word of Truth; they can hold the Word in their hands. But do we do so accurately? There are a number of statements in the text that warn about those who do not accurately handle the truth. These mishandlings are an important lesson to us.

MIS-Handling of the Truth

1. Foolish and ignorant disputation
Colossians 2:23
 - Disputes that have no value to the hearer
 - Will it make you a better Christian?
2. Always learning, never coming to know
James 1:22-25
 - Do you apply what you study?
 - Do you study with a purpose of action?
3. Having a form of godliness without power
Romans 1:16-17
 - The power of the Word is salvation
 - Many know the Word but are unsaved
4. Like Jannes and Jambres
Exodus 7:11-12
 - Artificial knowledge
 - Causing others not to believe
5. Error becomes manifested
James 3:13-18
 - Bitterness, envy, confusion, etc.
 - Works of the flesh

Do you accurately handle the truth? What is your purpose and intent in learning? Do you exercise spiritual discernment? All of these things are discernable to others. Spiritual people produce spiritual fruits (Galatians 5:22-23)