DO YOUR BEST

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

Keep Reminding God’s People of These Things

2 Timothy 2:14a Keep reminding God’s people of these things.

2 Timothy 2:11-13(ESV) The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself.

Quarreling about Words

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

“Warn” translates a Greek word translated “charge” or “command” in other translations. Adding the words “before God” makes the warning even stronger.

“Quarreling about words” is *“logomacheo”* made by combining the word for fight with the word meaning word, *“logos.”* Since *“logos”* means not the letters making up a word, but the expression of a thought or concept, as in Jesus is the Word, the full and complete expression of what God the Father is, the Greek word would primarily seem to mean quarreling about what words mean.

And since 2 Timothy 1:13(NASB) tells us to “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me,” the admonition is to use words to mean what they have always meant and how they are used in Scripture, not with some new supposed meaning. Hymanaeus and Philetus in verses 17&18 may have been using a different definition for “resurrection.”

“It is on no value, and only ruins those who listen.” Changing what has been the accepted meaning of words only creates confusion in the minds of those who listen and is a favorite tactic of those trying to change what people believe while also trying to appear as if they are only saying what everyone knows is true. “All animals are created equal, but some are more equal than others” (Animal Farm) is a great example.

Do Your Best

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

“Do your best” means essentially to be diligent, to be zealous, to be earnest, to be eager.” “To present yourself to God” means to come into God’s presence. “As one approved” means one who has been found worthy after being tested. “Worker” may apply especially to Timothy, but it applies to all of us.

I Timothy 5:18 For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

Matthew 9:3738 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Ashamed” in this verse is an intensive form of the verb to be ashamed used only here in the New Testament. Vine’s says it means” having no cause for shame.

Mark 8:38 “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.

The word “and” after the word ashamed is not in the Greek text. Those who have no “need to be ashamed” are those who “correctly handle the word of truth.”

The “word of truth” is the Scriptures. John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16&17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“Correctly handle” translated a Greek word used only here in the New Testament that literally means to cut straight which the King James Version translates “rightly dividing.” It originally meant to cut in a straight line, it came to mean doing anything correctly. It is used twice in Proverbs in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.

Provers 3:5&6(ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 11:5(ESV) The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.

“Correctly handling the word of truth” is obviously important for those who teach and preach, but it is also extremely important for every follower of Jesus. John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 8:31&32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Scripture makes the servant of God “thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Eve believed a lie and disobeyed God. 2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Things to Remember

Don’t get caught up in the attempts of deceivers to change word meanings to justify teaching what the Bible condemns. Use words used in the Bible and use them the way the Bible uses them.

Do your very best to be one who is approved of by God, one who will not be ashamed when we stand before God.

Do this by being diligent to study and understand the Scriptures, because understanding what God’s Word teaches is essential to living a victorious Christian life and because understanding what God’s Word teaches is a major part of being equipped to do any kind of work for God.