



A Workman of the Word

Man's basic spiritual problem is believing the integrity of the God's word. There's nothing wrong with God's word; the problem lies in man and his believing. God expects man to work the word, to be a workman of his word. How is the workman to work the word of God?

(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The first key to becoming a workman of the word is to study to show yourself approved. What does this verse really say? Well, people hash many verses to pieces; that's not being a proper workman. Let's look at examples of this.

(Acts 17:2 KJV) And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days



reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

People have used this verse, the phrase 'out of the scriptures,' to justify using sources other than God's word. They say that Paul did this and that even the bible teaches it. If this is so, what sources did Paul use, and, if they were so good, why are they not around today? "Out of the scriptures." Does this mean, from outside of the scriptures?" Any intelligent man should be able to rightly divide this, not divide it wrongly.

(Jude 1:20 KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your

most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Some religions teach that you have to pray the Holy Spirit *into* a meeting, and reference this verse. When someone says this is what the bible says, we should hand them a bible and say 'chapter and verse please.' The question is, are they rightly dividing the bible. You can prove anything you want to prove from the bible by taking a verse out of context.

(Psa 14:1 KJV) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*

Man uses this verse to prove that there is no god. Let's not leave out "the fool" part. You can substantiate any theological viewpoint by hashing the

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word as you see fit.

(Psa 116:15 KJV) Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

People say that it is precious for one of God's people to die. Death is not precious. A dead person can't help anyone once he's dead. 'Precious' is Old English vernacular meaning, "costly." Have you ever heard of precious gems? It doesn't cost God a thing if a God rejecter dies. But if you or I die, that costs God something.

Timothy is addressed to leadership, and leadership, specifically, is required to rightly divide the word of Truth. We have this word of truth only to the extent and to the proportion that we rightly divide the word. The question is "do we rightly divide the word?"

(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The first word in 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "study." Do you read around the word of God? We are to study God's word. The best place for all of those secular books and theological discussions is the local garbage dump. They will always take you around the word. Equally intelligent men will be talking about the same subject, but end up with totally different conclusions. We must become workmen, and a workman has to study.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown