

# The Man Approved by God

---

“Be diligent (“do your best”—ESV) to present yourself **approved to God**, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (“accurately handling”—NAS) the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

- He is **not**...
  - ▣ The man who has never sinned.
    - Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8, 10.
  - ▣ The man who commends/approves himself.
    - 2 Cor. 10:18; Luke 18:9-14.
  - ▣ The man approved by others.
    - 1 Samuel 16:7; Luke 16:15.

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

- The man who **works** at it.
  - ▣ "...a WORKER who does not need to be ashamed..."
  - ▣ Christians often described in N.T. as "workers" or "laborers"
    - 2 Tim. 2:21; 3:17.
  - ▣ "Be **steadfast, immovable, always abounding** in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58).

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

- The man who is **diligent**.
  - ▣ "Be DILIGENT..." (Gr., "to use speed")
  - ▣ Suggests urgency and effort.
  - ▣ Many commands prefaced by "be diligent...", or "give diligence."
    - Heb. 4:11; 11:6.

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

- The man who “rightly divides” or “handles accurately” the word of truth.
  - ▣ Greek means literally “to cut straight.”
  - ▣ B.W. Johnson: “...present the truth clearly, truthfully, without blunders, with an exactness that cannot be gainsaid.”
  - ▣ Surrounding verses (14-18) indicate importance of this.

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

- The man who “rightly divides” or “handles accurately” the word of truth.
  - ▣ Proper **manner** is important, too.
    - Can be too soft (2 Tim. 4:2).
    - Can also be too harsh (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
  - ▣ Important words of caution in 2 Peter 3:16.

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

- The man who approves of God's ways.
  - ▣ Philippians 1:9-11; Rom. 1:32.
  - ▣ You can't be approved by God...
    - If you approve homosexuality.
    - If you approve adulterous marriages.
    - If you approve of denominationalism.
    - If you approve different conditions of pardon.

# The Man Approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15)

---

- The man who works at it.
- The man who is diligent.
- The man who rightly divides or handles accurately the word of God—in content and attitude.
- The man who approves of God's ways.