

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 31 - APPROVED OR ASHAMED

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.”

One of the great temptations of the busy believer is to stop studying the Bible. After all, throughout many years of Christian life, most of us have heard hundreds of sermons, perhaps even sat through a multitude of Bible studies, listened to countless CD's and tapes, read a library of Christian books, and maybe listened to Christian radio or TV. And this is not to mention the countless Internet Web sites with sermons and Christian information at our fingertips. Indeed modern believers find themselves with so many resources that it becomes easy to spend most of our time reading about the Bible and less and less time actually studying God's Word itself. Paul admonished young Timothy- and us- at this point saying, “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.” In this single verse, there are four important truths to apply to our own study habits.

THE BELIEVERS MANDATE “Do your best”

We are to be diligent and zealous about the task of studying God's Word (the Word of Truth). Paul was challenging all believers to take very seriously their personal study habits. The Bible is a miraculous book in which personal study never ends. Bible study is a lifetime endeavour for the committed believer. It is our assignment, our mandate from God.

THE BELIEVERS MOTIVATION

What is it that should motivate believers to undertake a lifetime of studying the Scriptures? It is so that when we are presented before the Lord Jesus, we might be “approved” by Him. The discipline of study is a stewardship from God, and believers should be motivated by a passionate longing to please the Lord, to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

THE BELIEVERS MANNER

What is the manner by which we should go about our task of Bible study? We are to be workers who do “not need to be ashamed.” Study is hard work. Doing word studies is laborious. Getting out our work tools of commentaries and Bible dictionaries is labour intensive. We are reminded that we are to equip ourselves for “the work of ministry” as Paul mentioned to the Ephesians (4:12). Dedicated believers are to be workers who devote themselves to the wholehearted study of God's Word.

THE BELIEVERS MESSAGE

All of this is to be done in order that we might correctly “handle the Word of truth”. We should approach the Bible with a deep reverence, even a fear that we might mishandle or misrepresent God's truth. We should take great care against using every paraphrase we might find in order to twist the truth to match our own way of thinking about a matter. We are to be about rightly handling the Word of truth. This is a serious assignment. The believer's message should always be centred in, and issue out of, God's holy Word. Think about it: we are God's workers. We will either be approved or ashamed when we stand before Him. This is a high calling and an awesome task: Do your best to present (ourselves) to God as one approved, a workman who (do) not need to be ashamed and who correctly (handle) the Word of truth.”

As you memorise this verse, lay aside all the resources and other study aids, and meditate on the word alone..