
BIBLE 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)

Volume 8, Issue: May 2005

Approved or Ashamed?

by Phillip Shumake

“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 - NAS95)

Writing from his prison cell in Rome, Paul encourages Timothy to bring his life into focus by diligently seeking God’s approval. Often when reading 2 Timothy 2:15 our minds can be drawn toward the concept of diligence in our service to God. This is certainly important, but don’t forget the specific application of that diligence mentioned in the immediate context, seeking God’s approval.

Paul hopes for Timothy to set God’s approval of his life, work, and heart at the very center of his personal definition of success. This encouragement is especially important for Timothy because Paul knows how difficult it is for preachers to seek God’s approval verses the approval of the local congregation. (Acts 21:10-15) Yet, he knows that a successful ministry must be centered on the imperishable Word of God instead of the passing whims of members.

This encouragement also has special significance to us today. Paul knows how difficult it is for families to seek God’s approval verses their communities open arms. (Phil. 1:27-30) But Paul also knows that families are established and regulated by God, not our neighbors. He knows that seeking God’s approval in our home will lead to better choices and better lives. Paul truly knows there is power in seeking God’s approval!

When we seek God’s approval above all others, our life becomes radically focused. Seek-

Continued on page two...

church of Christ at Beverly Shores

Sun. 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes
Sun. 10:30 a.m.—Worship
Sun. 6:00 p.m.—Worship
Wed. 7:00 p.m.—Bible Classes

1318 Griffin Road
Leesburg, FL 34748
352-365-9946

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad to have you visiting with us today, because you are part of our goals. This may sound odd, but please let us explain. Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and to glorify Him in all that we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)

God will always be our number one priority, but the Bible speaks of secondary goals that this church also recognizes. Today, we consider you our honored guest, and hope to prove ourselves welcoming and hospitable. In fact, we hope that you can tell we are loving.

1 Timothy 1:5 says: “But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

Because this is our goal as well, we hope that you can see love in our teaching. We hope you can see people with pure hearts, a good conscience, and faith that is totally genuine. Only then will we really be doing our job.

So please, stay a while after services so we can greet you. Feel free to take a welcome packet with you as you leave, and if you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask. Helping you is part of our goals.

From page one...

ing God’s approval refines our decision making process and sets our priorities in order. It allows us to look outside of what we think is in our best interest, and see the plan of action God would approve.

Whose approval do you most seek? Is it your family, your friends, your spouse? This week recommit yourself to seek God’s approval of your life, work, and heart to have your choices radically focused on what is truly right, honorable, and good. Then, like Timothy, you will have no need to be ashamed of your actions in front of others, or in front of God on the day of judgment.

Think on these things...

(Ecclesiastes 10:10) If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.“

By studying God’s word we sharpen our minds for the challenges of daily life. Don’t go out into the world to work all day with a dull blade. Take a little time for daily study and prayer each day to gain the Godly Wisdom you need for success.

Who Said That!?

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Hint: ____ 5: ____

Importance of Good Judgment

By Dee Bowman

I made a mistake. It was just a foolish error, one common to young people. “You just used foolish judgment,” my Dad said, “you need to stop and think about what you’re doing.”

Life is full of opportunities for judgments of various sorts—some are little, seemingly insignificant, some are very important and may have long lasting results. Every decision is important, none ever easy.

Judgments follow us wherever we go. The wise man urges us that we pay careful attention to judgments and he says the book of Proverbs is given in order that justice, judgment, equity, knowledge and discretion might prevail in all areas of life, no matter your age. This revelation can make the young man wise, even though he may not yet have much experience with living life.

Your decisions are important. The word of God makes it possible for you to make good decisions, not foolish ones. But in order to do so, you will have to develop a familiarity with it. Make the word of God part of who you are and what you decide and you will not render foolish judgments.

As you go about your activities today, look for ways to implement God’s word; it will help you judge which way to go.

(Proverbs 1:1-7) “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

“Every decision is important, none ever easy.”