

ARE YOU APPROVED?

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2Tim. 2:15

Study *and* do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling *and* skilfully teaching the word of truth.

The word study is either a noun or verb. As a noun, it refers to the devotion of time and attention to gaining knowledge of a subject, or a detailed investigation and analysis of a subject or situation; as a verb, it is to devote time and attention to gaining knowledge in a field or subject, it can also mean to look closely with the aim of observation and gaining knowledge. Many are Christians today that are oblivious of the responsibilities imposed on them by the virtue of being a child of God, therefore you find gross misbehaviour from those that professed to have given their lives to Jesus. It is obvious however, from our memory verse that without the understanding of our rights and responsibilities as Christians, we would not be approved by the Lord neither will we be able to rightly preach the saving grace that Christ purchased for all as a gospel, nor see Him in glory.

I suppose the lack of thorough study and understanding of the Word of God is the reason there are so many unstable brethren in our churches today who are easily swayed by all manner of doctrines, especially those that does not saddle them with responsibilities. Many have believed in lies, conjectures and innuendos which suggests that God is the only One that has responsibility to the Christian.

Acts 17:11

They found that the Jews of Berea were of more noble character and much more open minded than those of Thessalonica. They were hungry to learn and eagerly received the word. Every day they opened the scrolls of Scripture to search and examine them, to verify that what Paul taught them was true.

When a fellow studies the scriptures personally, aside from debugging what they have heard, their knowledge of God will increase as is their understanding of what they can and cannot expect of God. It is for example easy for the story of David to be referenced by a preacher and get people excited, but it takes studying the lives of people like Abraham and Job to understand that sacrificial giving and affliction are part of the package and will lead to the blessings being hungered for, just as Jesus alluded in Matt.16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If you truly want to follow me, you should at once completely reject and disown your own life. And you must be willing to share my cross and experience it as your own, as you continually surrender to my ways"

Your approval to God is not based on your service, offerings, the payment of your tithe or any outward exercise for that matter, (while they are needed for the body of Christ to grow), it is premised of your personal knowledge and interaction with Him. That will help you understand that He is the God of individual and not of the multitude. Even though His call was to the whole world, a careful analysis will reveal to a studious fellow that He addressed Himself to an individual (John 3:16; John 7:37 and Rev.3:20).

Anyone that understands the scriptures on the back of their personal study, knows that things happening nowadays in both the Church and world are signs of the end times, today for example, there are all manner of people professing to be preachers of the gospel, but their conduct and mannerism points to the contrary; all the world today, nations rising against each other resulting in wanton destruction of lives and properties and evil is no longer being done in secret but openly, the list goes on and on.

Matt.24.11-13

And many lying prophets will arise, deceiving multitudes and leading them away from the path of truth. There will be such an increase of the sin of lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold. But hold your hope firmly to the end and you will experience life and deliverance.

Are you approved of the Lord, have you studied and continues to study the Word of God including especially hearkening to the instructions therein? It will be a mere and useless exercise if all you did was to study but not hearken, for it is in following through, the Word, that ultimate approval rests.