

... present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Romans 6:13

Store In My Heart

2Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Part of what the included article considers is how this verse is rendered in the KJV. Much teaching through the years has been done emphasizing the word "study" in that version. The teaching that has been done is good teaching and certainly tells us we need to study God's Word. But by taking the time to look at some of the other versions available today we can see that Paul pushes Timothy a little farther than just study. He demands diligence, or as the ESV renders it "Do your best."

This is why I often recommend reading from several different versions because they can help clarify and give insight into teaching that we might otherwise miss.



Study with Diligence

Dan Henderson

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

2Timothy 3:14-15

For several years Timothy had the benefit of the teaching of the apostle Paul as they worked together preaching the Gospel. This teaching was useful in preparing Timothy for his own preaching. From the instruction found here, and other passages, it is clear though that Paul did not consider Timothy's knowledge to be complete. No matter how much knowledge or teaching we may have had in the past it is certain that we need to continue in our study of the Gospel. Many young men work with an older preacher for a few years before finding their own work. This can be a great help in preparing them for the work of preaching. But as with Timothy even these men must continue their study once they are working on their own.

Today there are many things that can distract us from our studies. If we are not careful even those things we use to assist our study can hinder instead of help. Computers and the internet can be very useful in finding information on many topics for any student. They can be used to reach those that are lost. But if we are not careful they can also waste a great deal of our time. Commentaries can be helpful in developing a fuller understanding of the Scriptures. But they can also lead us astray if we emphasize them too much in our study. The comments of men are not what we need most. Simply reading information is not enough to help us understand the Scriptures. Study involves diligence and meditation on the word. Paul told Timothy study would help him divide the word in the right manner. The ability to rightly divide the word comes only through reading and meditating on the word with an open mind. The Psalmist tells us the man that meditates day and night will be blessed.

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

John Ragsdale has cataract surgery in the middle of June.

Camille Matthews is back home and doing better.

Adelaide's other grandfather, James Leshner will have adjustments to his medication and then will start treatments.

Tonight we start our study near 1Kings 5.

Wednesday we will begin our study in 2Thessalonians 2.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalm 1:1-2

No amount of internet surfing or searching, no commentary or religious paper can take the place of reading and meditating on the Word.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2Timothy 2:15

Note the word "study" as found in the King James Version. The American Standard and New King James versions use the phrases "give diligence" and "be diligent" respectively. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "study" as: to read in detail especially with the intention of learning. The original Greek word is spoudazo. BDB/Thayers defines this as: 1) to hasten, make haste; 2) to exert one's self, endeavour, give diligence. When you look up "study" in Vine's Expository Dictionary you are directed to see "diligence" for a definition. Under "diligence" you will find the same idea expressed as we saw in Thayers' definition. Vine's also tells us that 2Peter 1:10 uses the same Greek word. Note the KJV translation.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:"

Using the same phrase in 2Timothy we get *"Give diligence to shew thyself approved unto God..."*

It should be evident from our investigation that Paul is not simply telling Timothy to read. Reading is simply the beginning of what is expected of the Bible student. Even to read in detail is not all that is instructed by the original language. We are instructed to work hard at gaining a full understanding of what Scripture says. The efforts put forth above in learning the meaning of the word "study" is the sort of thing Paul is commanding of Timothy.

Many would say "But I have always heard that verse used to teach the need for study." Yes, for years we have heard *"Study to shew thyself approved..."* use in sermons on the need to study. What we have learned here expands that teaching. Paul told Timothy study involved exertion, diligence, and work. In order to *"rightly divide"* the Scriptures we must put forth a diligent effort. It will not always come easy. Do not take my word for it though. Study for yourself. With a little effort you will quickly see the need to be diligent. That should lead you to put forth even more effort to understand God's Word.

You will answer to God for your study habits and your understanding of Scripture. It begins with dedicating time to reading and meditating on the Word of God, but don't stop there, keep working to sharpen your understanding as you would sharpen a blade. Are you diligent in study?



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!