

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:14

Store In My Heart 2Timothy 1:5

For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

The faith of Timothy was noteworthy to Paul. He calls it sincere and acknowledges that it is Timothy's faith. Timothy's relationship with Paul certainly was a source of strength for his faith. But Paul tells us the faith that was in evidence in the life of Timothy was something that had begun with the influence of his grandmother and mother.

Our children may be grown, but we are still an influence on them and their children. Much of my own faith began with my parents and grandparents. Both of my grandfathers were a very strong influence for good in my life. We must all understand the way our life influences those around us. It may not show now, but your influence makes a difference in the lives of your descendants. Show your faith.



Study with Diligence

Dan Henderson

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." **2Timothy 3:14-15**

For several years Timothy benefited from 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 things that 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.

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates 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.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." **2Timothy 2:15**

Where the ESV has *"Do your best"* the KJV uses the word *"study."* The NASB and NKJ use the phrase *"be diligent."* Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "study" as: to read in detail especially with the intention of learning. The original Greek word spoudazo is defined in BDB/Thayers 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 just 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 to gain a full understanding of what Scripture says. The efforts put forth above in learning the meaning of the word *"study"* are 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. 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?

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jim Soliday is waiting on insurance to get his cardiac ablation scheduled.

Sue Soliday is continuing to improve.

Ruben Keisler has foot surgery scheduled for late February.

Paula Laubach is working this morning.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are on a cruise and should be in Hawaii this weekend.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah** Wednesday – **John 15:13**

Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock