

Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 2:14-15

Date: March 10, 2013

Title: "Handling the Word"

Focus: Every disciple of Jesus has responsibility to God's Word.

Intro:

1. 2 Timothy is the last correspondence there is from Paul, soon after he was executed.
2. As his last words to Timothy, a young servant of the Word whom he considered, "his son in the faith," it contains matters very close to his heart.
3. One was his desire to encourage Timothy to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2:1).

Body:

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

- Often this verse is applied to every discipline when Paul actually spoke this to Timothy, one tasked with teaching the flock of God.

- Paul knew a teacher must always be more diligent than those whom he is teaching.

- Timothy was admonished to "*accurately [handle] the word of truth.*" If he failed in this he would be ashamed and not approved before God.

- In addition, if Timothy failed to diligently handle God's word others would be impacted.

However, this did not leave those he served unaccountable for in their handling of God's Word.

Timothy was exhorted to "*Remind [those in his care] of these things...*"

- What are "*these things*" Timothy was to remind people of?

Four Profound Truths (v. 11-13)

- This was probably an existing statement of faith. Something that would later develop into a catechism (a summary of the principles of the Christian religion).

- It offers a basic memorable statement people could carry with them. It teaches:

Jesus is the source of real life. (v. 11a)

This life is lived in light of the promise of something more valuable to come. (v. 11b)

If a person rejects God, God will reject him. (v. 12a)

We do not hang onto God, He hangs onto us. (v. 12b)

- A disciple's life is lived out of what he or she believes. These truths are a solid foundation upon which to live.

Three Imperative Statements (vv. 2-10)

- Timothy is *commanded* to engage in three activities among those he served:

v. 2; "Entrust... to faithful men...the things which you have heard from me."

- God's truth are to be shared verbally and actively (through life) by all who follow Jesus.

v. 3; "Suffer hardship with me."

- Adversity is part of the Christian experience. Being a disciple involves effort to surrender one's life to the rule of Heaven. The values of The Kingdom are counter-cultural. Living by the rule of God will bring believers into conflict with non-believers and even with their personal desires.

v. 8; "Remember Jesus Christ..."

- Amidst the urgent cries of our own wishes and the pressing demands of the world in which one lives, it is easy to forget Jesus. Effort must be invested in making sure this does not happen.

One Overriding Mindset (v. 14)

- As Timothy was reminding the people of "*these things*" he was to "...solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words..."

"*Wrangling] about words*" is debate. When it comes to the truths and commandments of God, there is to be no debate.

Debate is worthless. It only wastes time that rightly belongs to obedience. (v. 14b)

Closing:

1. A cost associated with following Jesus is the personal responsibility one has to hear God's voice and respond to Him.
2. This is every disciple's responsibility. If He is not known, He cannot be obeyed. If He is not obeyed, life cannot manifest His character. If life does not reflect His character, what in the purpose of the Christian experience?