

# An Approved Unashamed Worker

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August 4, 2019

**Open:** Have you ever had an argument with someone about spiritual things that was unproductive? What would you have done differently?

**Read:** 2 Timothy 2:8-19

**Discuss:**

1. In verses 8-9, what specific truths does Paul want Timothy to remember? Why might these truths have been an encouragement to Timothy as a young worker in ministry?
2. What motivated Paul to “endure everything for the sake of the elect” (v. 10)? How does this same goal and motivation shape your life?
3. In verses 12b-13, Paul says “if we deny [Christ], he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” How can we reconcile what Paul is saying here? How are denying Christ and being faithless different?
4. What sort of “words” do you imagine Paul has in mind when he says to not “quarrel about words” in verse 14? (*See also v. 16.*) Why should being reminded of the truths above lead us to avoid such quarrels? How do we know when discussions are valid and when they are not?
5. Though Timothy was a pastor, we’re all called to be servants and ministers in the church. How do we go about obeying each part of Paul’s instructions in verse 15—to “present ourselves to God as one approved,” to present ourselves as “a worker who has no need to be ashamed,” and to be a worker “who rightly handles the word of truth”?
6. In verses 16-18, Paul gives some examples of what can happen when we don’t follow the instructions of verse 15. How have you seen false teaching disrupt people’s lives and faith? How do you make sure that you personally do not “swerve from the truth” (v. 18)?
7. What is the relationship between verse 19 and the rest of this passage? How does the knowledge that “the Lord knows those who are his” affect your everyday life?

**Apply:** What promise or challenge from this passage do you need to remember to help you present yourself to God as an “approved unashamed” worker? What will you do about that this week?

**Pray:** Pray that our church would be full of workers who aim to live approved and unashamed lives. Pray that God would keep us walking in His truth at all times.

## 2 Timothy 2:8-19.

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, <sup>17</sup> and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup> who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." (ESV)