Handling Aright the Word of Truth

2 Timothy 2:15

The apostle Paul writes, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Prior to this statement Paul had admonished Timothy to be aware of erring doctrines and their affects upon man (see 2 Timothy 1:13-14 and 2:14). Rather than teaching and or giving heed to erring doctrines and worldliness the child of God is to "give diligence to present thyself approved unto God." The word "diligence" in the Greek caries with it the idea of being eager, in a hurry, or to be bent on doing something. The Christian's bent in life ought to be to stand approved of God. We ought to all feel a since of urgency in our lives to have God view us as approved.

The Christian who would be approved of God is one who "handles aright the word of truth." The 1901 ASV has a footnote on this verse that states, "holding a straight course in the word of truth." The Nestle Marshal text reads, "cutting straight the word of truth." The words "cutting straight, handling aright, or holding a straight course" are represented by one Greek word, "orthotomounta" which is defined as "to cut straight; to direct aright; to set forth truthfully, without perversion or distortion" (Moulton 292). Man may be guilty at times of distorting or perverting truth when adding things that God does not say or by presenting a personal opinion or conviction as though it were divine revelation. The Christian is to recognize the standard of truth and set it forth in its original setting. We should respect and obey its divine instruction and make the proper application to our lives.
God does not reveal his mind to man to confuse people (1 Corinthians 14:33). The unlearned and those who will ever learn yet never come to the truth fail to realize that God's word is written with great continuity (see 2 Timothy 3:7). When approaching any Bible topic be careful to consider not only the context of a verse but also the continuity of the subject as it is treated throughout the Bible. Many Christians get themselves all worked up when others present truth on a matter that they have a complete different take on. Unfortunately, Christians often get caught up in preconceived religious ideas. Said Christians hold and bind doctrines on others as though their opinions and personal convictions are on par with God's word. Such actions are a perversion or distortion of truth as it was originally delivered.

Consider these Bible topics and verses that continue to trouble many. Ephesians 2:8 tells us that we are saved by God's grace alone. Romans 10:9 tells us that if we will confess and believe in Jesus we will be saved. 1 Corinthians 15:29 speaks of being baptized for the dead. Psalms 37:4 tells us that we can have the desires of our heart. 1 Timothy 3:1-8 tells us that elders are not to be given to wine whereas the deacon may partake of not "much wine." The worthy woman of Proverbs 31 with her children and marriage may appear to contradict the teaching of Paul for women at Titus 2:4-5. Did Paul contradict John by saying that all sin and fall short of the glory of God? (see Romans 3:23 compared to 1 John 5:18).

There are many Bible passages that have the appearance of contradiction yet upon closer examination of context Bible continuity is discovered. To keep ourselves from misunderstanding Bible text, developing hardcore convictions that have no Bible merit, and binding personal convictions and opinions on others as though it were truth we must handle aright the word of truth. Preconceived ideas, notions, and traditions must be cast out so that truth will have free course in your mind.

**Local News:**

**Welcome to all our visitors:**

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**Toline Witherspoon** continues her rehabilitation work at Health South. Tom said that she will likely be there for around fourteen days. The best time to visit is in the evening (after she has completed her morning and afternoon regiment of rehab).

**Nell Hulsey** had a massive stroke this past week. She was taken to United Regional Hospital last Monday and was released Wednesday evening. She is currently under the care of Hospice in her home. Please keep the entire Husak family in your prayers.

**Shut-ins:**

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home)

**Ila Belle Windham**  
At home but request no calls this time)
Jesus is Coming Soon
Hebrews 9:28

Introduction:

Jesus is coming soon so what should I do? The Bible depicts Christ as coming at any moment (see Hebrews 10:23-25; James 5:8; 1 Peter 5:4-6). No man knows the day or hour of the Lord yet it is coming (Matthew 24:36-44). These words were spoke approximately 2000 years ago. What should man think (2 Peter 3:13). Let us consider some things that we ought to be doing now to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus.

I. Be Ready (Matthew 24:44):
   A. Consider the illustrations the Lord gives (Matthew 24:36-44).
   B. Pray, study, make humility, lowliness, and subjection a part of your being (Matthew 5).

II. Be Patient (James 5:7):
   A. The Christian expects Christ to come.
   B. Establish your hearts (James 5:8)
   C. Consider the prophets of old (James 5:10).

III. Do not permit the things of this World to cause you to throw away your Faith (1 John 2:15-17):
   A. Careful not to lust after unlawful things of the flesh (Matthew 5:27-28)
   B. Careful not to long after the world's riches (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
   C. Careful not to love the glory of men (1 Peter 4:4-6).

Conclusion:

No man knows when Jesus will come again. If the Lord were to come during our lifetime what will he find you doing. What will be your state of mind? At a time when men will least expect the Lord will come. Those found in sin will be guilty and it will be too late for their salvation.