

CUTTING IT STRAIGHT

2 Timothy 2:14-17

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.

Ingredients of a biblical philosophy of ministry...

- I. A RIGHT VIEW OF GOD**
- II. A RIGHT VIEW OF MAN**
- III. A RIGHT VIEW OF SCRIPTURE**

14 Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.

2 Pet 2:1 - there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies...

Three expectations God has of every minister..

1. EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT

15 Be diligent...

4:9 - Make every effort to come to me soon;

4:21 - Make every effort to come before winter

*Eph 4:3 – (be) diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.*

1 Tim 5:17 - The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

*Prov 6:9 - How long will you lie down, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?*

Prov 19:15 - Laziness casts into a deep sleep, And an idle man will suffer hunger.

2 Cor 2:17 - For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

1. **EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT**
2. **MAINTAIN THE RIGHT MOTIVE**

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...

Rom 12:1 - Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God...

Rom 6:13 - and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness...

Rom 6:19 - ...now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

1. **EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT**
2. **MAINTAIN THE RIGHT MOTIVE**

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...

James 1:12 - Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life...

Gal 1:10 - ... If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

1 Thes 2:4 - we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

1. EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT
2. MAINTAIN THE RIGHT MOTIVE

15...as a workman who does not need to be ashamed...

2 Tim 1:8 - Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner...

2 Tim 1:12 - ... I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

1. EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT
2. MAINTAIN THE RIGHT MOTIVE

15...as a workman who does not need to be ashamed...

John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father...

Rev 22:18–19 – 18...if anyone adds to them...19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life...

1. EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT
2. MAINTAIN THE RIGHT MOTIVE
3. DEVELOP THE RIGHT SKILL

15...accurately handling the word of truth.

Prov 3:6 - In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Col 1:5 - you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel...

*John 17:17...when Jesus prayed to the father on our behalf
– Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

1. EXERT THE RIGHT EFFORT
2. MAINTAIN THE RIGHT MOTIVE
3. DEVELOP THE RIGHT SKILL

16 But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness...

17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus...

HERMENEUTICS – the art and science of Bible interpretation.

1 Tim 4:16 - Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching...

Joel James – It is a grand privilege to preach for God, but to preach for God you must first study for God. Paul told Timothy to ‘Preach the word’ (2 Tim 4:2), but Timothy could only fulfill that command after he had fulfilled this one: ‘Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth’ (2 Tim 2:15).

Three crucial principles...

- **INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE**

D.A. Carson – *...the Scriptures are simultaneously God's verbal revelation and the product of human hands...*

Milton Terry – *Critical and exegetical study will be... serious and painstaking as the student feels a deep conviction that he is handling the very word of God.*

Fred H. Klooster – *Faithful interpretation of Scripture should proceed from the conviction that the Bible is God's revelation to us.*

Three crucial principles...

- **SINGLE MEANING**

Louis Berkhof – *Scripture has but a single sense, and is therefore susceptible to a scientific and logical investigation.... To accept a manifold sense...makes any science of hermeneutics impossible and opens wide the door for all kinds of arbitrary interpretations.*

Three crucial principles...

- **AUTHORIAL INTENT**

Abner Chou – *A conviction about authorial intent makes us those who discover the intent of the text as opposed to those who place demand upon it.*

Gordon Fee – *A text cannot mean what it never meant... ..the true meaning of the biblical text for us is what God originally intended it to mean when it was first spoken...*

John Calvin – *It is the first business of an interpreter to let his author say what he does say, instead of attributing to him what we think he ought to say.*

Ezra 7:10 - For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

2 Tim 4:3 - the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires...