



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**“HANDLE ACCURATELY THE WORD OF TRUTH”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-15**

**COLORADO**

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*In 2 Timothy 4:13 we find Paul requesting that Timothy bring his coat and parchments. He is in a dungeon awaiting execution for being a Christian and what does he want? He wants to be warm and to have his “books” to study. He is months from death, he has written the main letters of the New Testament and what does he want to do? He wants to study and read God’s Word. Paul has preached for nearly 30 years and yet what does he desire? To learn more. He can’t get enough of God. He has a love for the Lord and a desire for His Word. And that’s what Paul desires for Timothy as well. He wants Timothy to learn to love God more, love His Word more, become even more devoted to Christ, become more faithful in ministry, develop a greater reverence for God with an exalted view of Christ, he wants Timothy to pursue holiness, be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God, build up the church and glorify Christ.*

## **I. “HANDLE ACCURATELY THE WORD OF TRUTH”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-15**

*2 Timothy 2:14-15: “(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. (15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed handling accurately the word of truth.”*

Paul has reminded Timothy of Jesus Christ and His preeminence, the power of God’s Word and the purpose of his work to proclaim the gospel with a call to faithfulness, perseverance and endurance through suffering. Now Paul calls on Timothy to remind the church of these things as well. In Paul’s first letter, he exhorts Timothy to have a watchful eye on the threat of false teaching that was present. He commands Timothy with the imperative to retain the standard of sound words and guard the treasure of the gospel because deception is always present with its disruptive, destructive work. Now, Paul wants Timothy to keep reminding the church of what’s important for these false teachers are present, trying to subvert the Word of God with long words, theories and philosophies that can make Christianity seem like just an obscure idea. It is no different today. So Paul begins with a reminder, a warning and then a command on how to address these serious concerns.

## **A. “REMIND AND SOLEMNLY CHARGE THEM”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:14A**

Paul begins with a strong appeal to Timothy, “Remind them of these things...” (2 Timothy 2:14). This present tense imperative exhorts Timothy to persistently and constantly remind the whole church at Ephesus to endure in their commitment to Christ and faithfully proclaim the gospel. Just as Paul has reminded Timothy of the essential truths of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his calling and commitment to Christ, so too Timothy must remind the church of

these things so they might be faithful as well and not fall prey to any deception. Paul exhorts Timothy to “solemnly charge them in the presence of God”, giving a stern warning, a serious admonition, reminding them of God’s presence thus exhorting them to excellence to “not wrangle about with words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.”

“**wrangle about with words**” Greek “**logomacheo**” carries the idea of waging a war with words.

This Greek word in the noun form is used in 1 Timothy 6:4 and is indicative of false teaching. It refers to those whose discussions were of no good use whatsoever. The result was subversion and the ruin of those who heard it. Wrangling with those whose motives are questionable and whose influence is factious and destructive must be avoided. We can’t even give these an opportunity to speak because of the harm it does.<sup>1</sup>

To wage a war with words isn’t referring to arguing about secondary matters. Paul warns in 1 Timothy 6:4-5, “If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved minds and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.” This was a grave matter and Paul warns about such divisiveness in Titus 3:10-11 and how to deal with a factious man.

The concern however is that as Christians become less and less familiar with Scripture and sound doctrine, they become easy prey for ideas that sound good but actually mitigates against God’s truth.<sup>2</sup> So why does Paul say to avoid and oppose any and all false teaching? 2 Timothy 2:14 says, “which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.”

First Paul says it is useless, meaning that it is of no value, it accomplishes no good purpose. Not only is it useless but it leads to the ruin of hearers. The word “ruin” is where we get the word for catastrophe. False teaching has a catastrophic effect. It carries the idea of being overturned, or overthrown spiritually in this context. It causes confusion, doubt, and discouragement to believers. These words intentionally subvert the truth and replace it with error. So instead of building up believers it tears them down. Instead of bringing enrichment, it brings disaster. This can work to the ruin, the catastrophe of those who hear it because it replaces truth with lies.<sup>3</sup>

By contrast, Paul calls Timothy to handle God’s Word accurately.

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

# Colorado

## “HANDLE ACCURATELY THE WORD OF TRUTH” - 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-15

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

### B. “BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:15A

In contrast to those who would pervert the truth, Timothy, and all believers must be diligent to handle God’s Word with accurate precision because God’s truth matters; *it saves!* Amidst the many false teachers, Timothy must present himself as a teacher of truth.

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“**diligent**” Greek “**spoudazo**” means zealous persistence, maximum effort.

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Timothy must give maximum effort to teach and impart God’s truth completely and clearly by giving unreserved commitment to excellence in examining, interpreting, explaining and applying God’s Word.<sup>4</sup> It is devoting our maximum effort to give God’s Word completely and accurately to others. It is God before Whom we will stand and give an account for how we have handled His Word.

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“**present yourself**” Greek “**paristemi**” means standing alongside of or before to present oneself for inspection.

“**approved**” Greek “**dokomos**” means favorable passing, passing careful scrutiny, one who has stood the test and fit for service, describes gold or silver purified from the dross and has stood the test, approved as pure.

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This is a serious matter. The purpose of our diligence is not to please others but God Himself. (Galatians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:4) We have been entrusted with His Word, with the gospel that saves and it is God before Whom we will stand and give an account for how we have handled His Word. We must work hard at this task to study, to learn, to know and teach rightly. It is no trivial responsibility here for there are many who add, or take away from God’s Word. It is not Christianity light that saves. It’s the message of the cross of Christ that saves and even though it can be difficult we must be careful to share it precisely as God has written it. It is imperative that we take our responsibility seriously regarding Scripture. It is our sacred trust and requires our maximum effort. So, “*be diligent to present yourself approved to God...*” How?

### C. “AS A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED”- 2 TIMOTHY 2:15B

We are called to give our maximum effort to handling Scripture accurately with the equivalent exertion and effort of a tireless day laborer. We are God’s laborers and our work is to handle the Word of God without any shame. To be ashamed would mean that we have done something dishonorable. Anyone who misrepresents or misinterprets God’s truth by adding or taking away from it has reason to be ashamed and will fall under certain judgment by God. Just read Revelation 22:18-19. A workman who has done his work

well can submit it to his supervisor without hesitation or embarrassment.

### D. “HANDLING ACCURATELY THE WORD OF TRUTH”-2 TIMOTHY 2:15C

This apostolic command to get it straight and give it straight has become a 2000 year old charge to all those who are called to teach, preach and pass on the gospel of Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup>

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“**handle accurately**” Greek “**orthotomeo**” means rightly dividing, literally to cut straight, used of a craftsman cutting a straight line, of a farmer plowing a straight furrow, of a mason cutting a stone so it fits correctly in place, a workman building a straight road. Refers to the exactness demanded, the precision required.

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The mark of a faithful believer, a faithful teacher will be that they handle the Word of God, the “*word of truth*” with careful precision. Anything less than our maximum effort and precision in handling God’s Word is shameful. We dare not deviate or distort its’ message in any way. It’s not our opinion about what God says, rather *this is what God says*. We say what the Bible says and we don’t avoid difficult subjects or twist the truth to suit the taste of people. What’s the solution for dealing with false teaching? It’s handling Scripture accurately. The Bible is God’s inerrant, authoritative, sufficient and sole source of God’s divine “*word of truth*”. Only from Scripture can we know all other truth. We have a great responsibility to get it straight and give it straight. May we never take our responsibility lightly to handle God’s Word accurately and be a good workman; willing to give the time and the effort to give the “*word of truth*” to a lost world who desperately needs to know the living Word.

*“Give him a chapter and order him to walk around it, camp on it, sup with it, come at last to speak it backward and forward, until all he says about it rings with the truth of eternity. And when he’s burned out by the flaming Word, when he’s consumed at last by the fiery grace blazing through him, and when he’s privileged to translate the truth of God to man, finally transferred from earth to heaven, then bear him away gently and blow a muted trumpet and lay him down softly.  
Place a two-edged sword in his coffin.”<sup>6</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup>Kent, Homer A. Jr., *The Pastoral Epistles, Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN, 2010. Pg. 265.

<sup>2</sup>MacArthur, John Jr., *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.73.

<sup>3</sup>MacArthur, John Jr., *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.74.

<sup>4</sup>MacArthur, John Jr., *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.75.

<sup>5</sup>Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 209.

<sup>6</sup>MacArthur, John Jr., *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Word: Waco, TX, 1992. Pg. 348.