Four-fold Objective of God’s Workers

2 Timothy 2:15

Introduction:
A. Timothy: A young Christian worker.
   1. All Christians: Eph. 2:10; Tit. 2:14.
   2. Young Christians.
B. Text: A Four-fold objective in life for young and old.

Discussion:
II. **To Be God-approved Workers** — “Present Yourself approved to God.”
   
   A. Man’s approval sometimes good (Rom. 14:18; 1 Cor. 10:33).
   B. God’s approval more important and essential. (Gal. 1:10; Col. 3:22).
   C. God first, then: Family, friends, peers, public.

III. **To Be Diligent Workers** — “Be diligent.”
   
   A. King James “study.”
   
   1. Other Translations: “Give diligence” (ASV), “Be diligent” (NKJ, NASV), “Do your best” (NIV)
   
   2. Other Passages: Gal. 2:10; Eph 4:3:1 Thess. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:9; 4:21; Tit. 3:12; Heb. 4:11; 2 Pet 1:10,15 3:14.
   
   B. Diligence= intense interest and effort. (Cf. Rom. 12:11).
   
   
   2. All aspects: Learning, assembling, worshiping, evangelizing, service, light-bearing.

IV. **To be Unashamed Workers** — “A worker who does not need to be ashamed.”
   
   A. Because of quality and quantity of work.
   B. No reason to be ashamed of:
   
   1. Lord and his word (Mark 8:38; cf. Rom. 1:15,16).
   
   2. Lord’s people — the church. (2 Tim. 1:8; cf. 1 Cor. 1:26).
   

V. **To be Accurate Workers** — “Rightly dividing the word of truth.”
   
   A. Orthotomeo:
   
   1. Ortho=straight or upright (cf. Orthopedic)
   
   2. Literally "to cut straight": keep it straight; do things right.
   
   3. Thayer: “to teach the truth directly and correctly.”
   
   B. Not just divide Bible into proper sections.
   
   1. To correctly teach rather than "to the ruin of the hearers". (cf. v. 14)
   
   2. To correctly apply the word of truth to self and others (cf 1 Tim. 4:16).
   
   a. Rather than "profane and vain babblings" - useless speculations. (v. 16)
      
      (1) Unprofitable. (vs. 14).
      
      (2) Dangerous. (vs. 16-18).
      
      (3) Divisive. (vs. 23-26).
   
   b. Rather than careless interpretations and applications.

Conclusion:

A. Each Christian needs to make his life’s goal to be: God-approved; diligent; unashamed and accurate.

B. Each unsaved person needs to seek God’s approval by obeying the gospel.