“A Worker Who Does Not Need to Be Ashamed”
2 Tim. 2:15

Introduction:
A. Timothy was God’s worker (workman).
   1. Did work of evangelist. (2 Tim. 4:5)
   2. Did work of training teachers. (2 Tim. 2:2).
   3. Did not need to be ashamed of self or work (1 Tim. 4:16)
B. God’s worker do not need to be ashamed if he meets two conditions:

Discussion:
I. If He Strives for God’s Approval.
   A. “Approved to God”. (v. 4; cf 1 Thess. 4:1)
      1. Not man. (Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 4:1-5)
      2. Yet, not totally insensitive to man’s approval. (Rom. 15:1,2; 1 Cor. 9:22,23; 10:32-33)
      1. Suggests extra effort. - “exert oneself” - Vines
         a. Hardship. (v. 3)
         b. Hard work (v. 6)
      2. Suggests extra care.
         a. To avoid double loyalty. (v. 4)
         b. To keep the rules. (v. 6).

II. If He Handles Aright God’s Word.
   A. Need to start with this verse!
      1. Not merely a command to study the Bible.
         a. Comparable to “study to be quite” (1 Thess. 4:11).
         b. Same word (spoudazo) translated: endeavor, diligence, zealous (cf. 4:9, 21; Eph 4:3)
         c. Involves Bible study.
            (1) Close connection with handling the word.
            (2) Must search scriptures to be approved of God. (cf. Acts 17:11).
      2. Not merely a command to divide Bible into proper sections.
         a. Literally “to cut straight”: keep it straight; do things right.
         b. Other translations say “handle aright” (ASV) or “correctly handle” (NIV).
         c. To rightly divide or proportion it out to benefit hearers rather than to their ruin (cf. v. 14)
   B. Need to correctly understand and apply the word of truth.
      1. Rather than “profane and vain babblings” - useless speculations. (v. 16; 1 Tim. 6:20).
         b. Dangerous. (vs. 16-18).
         c. Divisive. (vs. 23-26).
      2. Rather than careless and inaccurate interpretations and applications.
         a. “Simplicity in Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3)
            (1) Simplicity or undivided loyalty - (vs. 2,4) cf. Dup. or Multip.
            (2) Some things hard to understand -- takes effort. (2 Pet. 3:16).
         c. Was Paul against baptism? (1 Cor. 1:14).
         d. Does Bible forbid wearing gold? (1 Pet. 3:3)
         e. Is it wrong to have a kitchen in church house?

Conclusion:
A. One must give diligence that his every act is approved of God.
B. One must live so as to be unashamed before God.
C. One must handle the word of God aright - honestly, fairly, accurately.