

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Second Timothy Bible Study — II Timothy 2:15-21 Lesson #6

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in Second Timothy before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

- 15 **Be DILIGENT to present yourselves APPROVED to GOD**, a worker who does not need to be ASHAMED, rightly dividing the word of truth.

• **Deuteronomy 28:1-2** "And it shall come to pass, if you _____ obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments....." (Verse 2) "_____ these _____ shall come upon you, and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God."

• **Hebrews 11:6** "But without _____ it is impossible to _____ Him; for he that comes to _____ must _____ that He is, and that He is a _____ of them that _____ Him."

Definition: “Be DILIGENT to present yourselves APPROVED to GOD” – The dictionary defines **being diligent** as “characterized by steady, earnest and **energetic application and EFFORT**” and **DILIGENCE** as “persevering application.” There are some things in your Christian walk that require that kind of effort and perseverance, and you need to **APPLY** God's word to your life and situations. We're not talking about working for your salvation, because **salvation is NOT of WORKS, but of grace** (Eph. 2:8-9). This is concerning the **BLESSINGS** of God, and rewards both here and in heaven. The blessings and rewards do not come to the lazy, or procrastinators, or the double-minded, or to those who give half-hearted efforts. What is procrastination? The dictionary defines **PROCRASTINATE** as “to put off intentionally and habitually the doing of something that should be done.” **When you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you were instantly saved, redeemed, justified, born again, forgiven, made righteous, sanctified (made holy), given eternal life, and delivered out of Satan's kingdom.** Everything else in the Christian life is a **PROCESS**, and will take some effort and work on your part. Your work will not **ADD** anything to what Jesus did for you on the cross, and you do **NOT** have to work to **KEEP** yourself saved, because you are already completely saved, and you will never become unsaved. The effort and work we are speaking of is the “**working out**” or outward manifestation of the salvation that is already inside you, (Phil. 2:12-13). It is your **growing to Christ-likeness** and having His image formed in you. **God will reward your diligence**, and Jesus said it is proportionate to **HOW MUCH** effort you put into seeking God's will in your life. **The old King James version says, “STUDY” to show yourselves APPROVED to GOD** and **STUDYING takes work!** With the “same measure” you use, which means **the amount of diligence, effort and perseverance you put into seeking God's will and obeying it**, the rewards or blessings will be measured back to you. You must read, **STUDY and take in the word of God, and DILIGENTLY apply it to your life.**

• **Philippians 2:12-13** “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, _____ your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is _____ who _____ in you both to _____ and to _____ for His good pleasure.”

• **Mark 4:24** “And He said to them, ‘Take heed what you hear. With the _____ measure you use, it will be _____ to _____; and to you who hear, _____ will be _____.’”

Definition: “Take heed what you hear. With the SAME measure you use, it will be measured to you” – What does it mean to “take heed” or hearken? It means more than just to listen. It means

to listen, **pay attention**, and then **DO it!** To hearken **diligently** to God's voice, or His word, would mean that **you PUT it into PRACTICE in your life.** You don't just read it or HEAR it, and let it go in one ear and out the other! **Jesus said we must APPLY His word to our lives**, or be "doers" of the word, and He said "Take heed what you hear."

• **Matthew 7:24-27** "Therefore, whoever _____ these sayings of Mine, and _____ them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did _____, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who _____ these sayings of Mine, and does _____ do them, will be like a _____ man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it _____. And _____ was its _____."

• **II Peter 1:3-8 & 10** "As His divine power has given to us _____ that pertain to _____ and _____, through the knowledge of Him Who has called us to glory and virtue: by which have been given to us exceedingly _____ and precious _____ (in God's word): that through these (promises) you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, _____ all _____, add to your faith virtue (moral excellence); and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly _____; and to brotherly kindness _____. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Verse 10) "Therefore, brethren, be even more _____ to make your calling and election sure; for if you _____ these things, you will never _____"

Definition: "Rightly dividing the WORD of TRUTH" – Confusion and wrong doctrine amongst believers in the church comes from **people who do not "rightly divide" the word of God.** They do not read Scripture in its entire context, or take into account to whom the writer is speaking. Is the writer speaking to Christians? Is he speaking about Believers, or about non-believers? Is he speaking about Israel, or about the church of Jesus Christ? Is he speaking to people under the Law of Moses, or to people under the dispensation of grace? God makes a distinction between people, and we must be careful to see to whom He is speaking in a particular passage of Scripture. **God has divided people into three distinct categories:** (1.) unbelieving Jews (the nation of Israel), (2.) unbelieving Gentiles, and (3.) the church of God, which is the body of Christ.

• **I Corinthians 10:32** "Give none offense, _____ to the _____, nor to the _____, nor to the _____ of _____."

• **Ephesians 1:22-23** "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him (Jesus) to be the head over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fulness of Him who fills all in all."

16-18 But **shun PROFANE and VAIN babblings**, for they will increase to more UNGODLINESS. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have **strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past**; and they overthrow the faith of some.

• **I Timothy 6:20-21** "Oh, Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, _____ the _____ and _____ and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge – by professing it, some have strayed concerning the _____. Grace be with you. Amen."

• **Titus 3:9** "But _____ foolish disputes, _____, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and _____."

Definition: "Shun PROFANE and VAIN BABBLINGS" – "Shun" means to turn away from and

AVOID something. "Profane" means UNGODLY or dirty, and "babblings" means **to run off at the mouth**.

Definition: "AVOIDING the PROFANE and VAIN BABBLINGS and CONTRADICTIONS of what is FALSELY called KNOWLEDGE" – The word "profane" sometimes means swearing and cursing, but it also can just mean HUMAN THINKING, the opposite of HOLY and GODLY. "Vain babblings" means the same thing - **just opening your mouth and speaking without really thinking or judging your words by God's standards.** **"CONTRADICTIONS of what is FALSELY called KNOWLEDGE"** means **all the human thinking and reasoning that is AGAINST God's word** and His truth (what we call today a "secular world view"). It is FALSELY called "knowledge" because it really is NOT knowledge, because it is AGAINST God's knowledge. Paul warns Believers in II Corinthians 10:3-5, and says that **these thoughts need to be BROUGHT INTO OBEDIENCE to Christ**, and we MUST NOT allow these kinds of worldly, ungodly thoughts to take control in our minds.

● **II Corinthians 10:3-5** "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not _____ according to the flesh. For the _____ of our warfare are not carnal (merely HUMAN) but _____ in _____ for pulling down _____, casting down _____ and every high thing (human knowledge) that _____ itself against the _____ of _____, bringing every _____ into _____ to the _____ of Christ."

Definition: "AVOID foolish disputes, GENEALOGIES, contentions, and strivings" – Paul gave this same command to Timothy that he gives here to Titus. Paul was concerned that **Titus and Timothy only teach correct doctrine about Jesus Christ**, and warned them **NOT to ALLOW ANYONE to teach any corrupted or perverted forms of doctrine in their churches.** The warning against **"FABLES and endless GENEALOGIES"** refers to certain teachings in that day that were being added to biblical doctrine (teaching) about Jesus. Fables means stories that have no basis in truth, **such as "fairly tales" and superstitions**, and **genealogies means going back and researching someone's family history.** We know what Jesus' family history and genealogy was, but Paul mentions ENDLESS genealogies, as if some people were getting stuck on this subject, and were not going on to maturity in Christ. **Paul also says that these things "cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith", which means they are worthless for spiritual growth.** Paul told Titus that these **contentions, and strivings (arguments)** about the law are "unprofitable and useless."

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: **"The Lord KNOWS those who are HIS,"** and , "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

● **Nahum 1:7** "The _____ is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He _____ those who _____ in _____."

● **John 10:27** "My _____ hear My voice, and I _____ them, and they follow _____."

Definition: "The Lord KNOWS those who are HIS" – The word KNOW means **an intimate knowledge of a person**, not just recognizing who they are in a crowd. Jesus says in Matthew 7:22-23, **"I never KNEW you,"** which means those people were Christians in name only, and they did NOT have a real, personal relationship with the Lord.

● **Matthew 7:22-23** "Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never _____ you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

● **John 10:14** "I am the good _____; and I _____ My sheep, and am _____ by My _____."

•**Numbers 16:5** “And he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, ‘Tomorrow morning the _____ will _____ who is _____ and who is _____, and will cause him to come near to _____; that one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.’”

20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, **some for HONOR and some for DISHONOR.** Therefore **if anyone CLEANSSES himself from the latter, he will be a VESSEL for HONOR**, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

•**I Thessalonians 4:3-5** “For this is the _____ of _____, your sanctification: That you should _____ from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own _____ in sanctification and honor.”

•**II Corinthians 4:7** “But we have this _____ in earthen _____, that the excellency of the _____ may be of _____ and not of _____.”

Definition: “If anyone CLEANSSES himself from the latter, he will be a VESSEL for HONOR” – “Vessels” can mean cooking pots, dishes, or any kind of container. It also means our PHYSICAL Body. Verse 20 starts out with the picture of a “great house” or mansion which is a picture of all of us Christians as members of God’s household. We are the ones who CHOOSE what position we will have in God’s household: a vessel of honor, or a vessel of dishonor, meaning a container for HONORABLE USE or for DISHONORABLE USE. If our lives are **still FULL of pollution and garbage**, God can’t use us for anything honorable - **He can’t FILL us with His Holy Spirit.** And if we are not FILLED with the Holy Spirit, the things we do for the Lord are being done with mixed motives and in the power of the flesh. It is the difference between “gold, silver and precious jewels” and “wood, hay and stubble” (see I Corinthians 3:11-15). You will be able to serve God out of the PUREST of MOTIVES when you get rid of all the co-dependent, self-seeking behavior patterns in your life. Notice how it says **“if anyone CLEANSSES HIMSELF”** from the latter (latter means the old stuff, the iniquity from the past). This is NOT talking about salvation and being born again. God CLEANSSED you from the PENALTY of sin when you accepted Jesus Christ, and the blood of Jesus continually cleanses you. This is talking about getting rid of hindrances and **things that GET in the WAY of your walk with the Lord AFTER** you are already saved. It is not God who cleanses you from these things, but you must do it yourself. God bought you (the “house”), paid for you with the blood of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit has moved in, but **you’ve got to have a “garage sale” and get rid of a lot of JUNK**, and stuff that is taking up space, and some things that are downright detrimental to **the NEW OWNER!** (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

•**I Corinthians 6:19-20** “Or do you not know that your _____ is the _____ of the _____ who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your _____ and in your _____, which are God’s.”

•**II Corinthians 7:1** “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us _____ ourselves from all _____ of the _____ and _____, perfecting _____ in the fear of God.”

Definition: “We have this TREASURE in EARTHEN VESSELS” – “Earthen” just means made of CLAY, because clay is found in the earth. The “treasure” that we have in our “vessels of clay” is the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ that we must share with others so that they, too, can have eternal life in heaven.

•**Romans 9:21** “Does not the _____ have power over the _____, from the same lump to make one _____ for _____ and another for _____?”