

## **Bold and Engaged Discipleship**

### **2 Timothy 2:14-19**

#### **Introduction:**

We are continuing in our series, “Bold and Engaged Discipleship” a study of 2 Timothy. In this letter we see Timothy facing many challenges. These challenges were causing Timothy to struggle. The Apostle Paul, gently and lovingly, encourages and guides Timothy.

In today’s text, Paul is addressing some of the issues Timothy was facing in the church at Ephesus. The church was experiencing the pain of division. Believers were being sucked into bickering, gossip, taking sides, and teaching ideas that “swerved from the truth.”

Paul’s response to this distracted and quarreling church is the same response that we need today in our divided and quarrelsome world. Paul encourages all believers to re-align themselves with the truths of the gospel, which he calls being an “approved worker of God.”

We will consider three characteristics of this approved worker for God:

- 1) They remember that they forget
- 2) They are diligent in aligning themselves with God’s Word
- 3) They work from their approval and not for it.

#### **Discuss:**

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stood out to you? What challenged you? Were there any questions you want answered?

#### **They remember that they forget**

2. Why do you think Christians get bogged down in arguments over theology?
3. How have you seen disputes in a church become divisive? How did it impact you?
4. Paul reminds us of the foundational principles of the gospel:
  - **The incarnation-** Remember Jesus...who came to us in the flesh

- **The atonement-** Remember Jesus died for us to pardon us from our sin.
- **The resurrection-** Remember Jesus...who conquered death...we now live with Him, reign with Him, belong to Him...we are united through Him.

Why is remembering these truths so essential to the health of our church? How might this help us in our differences?

#### **They are diligent in aligning themselves with God’s Word**

5. Read verses 15-16. What do you think Paul means by rightly handling the word of truth?
6. The plumbline of Biblical teaching is the gospel. Why do you think we so easily swerve away from the truth of the gospel and get caught up in arguments over the truth of scripture?
7. How do we avoid getting caught up in false teachings?

#### **They work from their approval and not for it**

8. The truth of the Gospel reminds us we are approved based on Christ’s death and resurrection not based on our works (Eph. 4:8,9). Why do people still try to prove their worth to God and others?
9. What do you think it means to work from our approval and not for it? How are they different?

#### **Apply**

As an approved disciple of Christ, we remember we belong to Christ. He loves and guides us. We don’t have anything to prove. We can follow him boldly out of our love and gratitude for what he has done and continues to do in our lives.

Take some time to reflect – Do you live to gain God’s approval or from God’s approval? What would it look like in your life to live from God’s approval? How would it change the way you interact with others?