

“APPROVED WORKERS ARE NOT ASHAMED” [AWANA]

II TIMOTHY 2:14-18

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INTRODUCTION

The name “AWANA” is based upon the verse before us today (II Tim. 2:15):

**Approved
Workers
Are
Not
Ashamed.**

Now Paul tells Timothy to “call to remembrance ‘these things’” and to “solemnly charge them before God”—Paul likely thinks especially of the “faithful men” of v. 2, but this includes the entire congregation. In this passage Paul gives Timothy both positive and negative charges for his co-workers and especially for himself:

YOU MUST BE AN APPROVED WORKMAN SO AS NOT TO BE ASHAMED.

I. “CHRISTIAN” WORKERS THAT WILL BE ASHAMED

- A. Those involved in Word-Wars—only use in NT; cf. noun in I Tim. 6:4: (14)
 1. The Solemn Charge
 - a. Put “these things” of vv. 1-13 in remembrance—that is what is important
 - b. Solemnly charge them of the importance.
 - c. The teacher/Bible student stands “in the presence of God.”
 - d. **Do not** “war over words”—cf. v. 24 (simple verb; involves false & unbiblical ideas—not based on sound Bible exegesis).
 2. The Useless Catastrophe
 - a. “In nothing useful.”
 - b. “Unto the overthrow—**catastrophe**—of those who are hearing these “word-wars.”
 - c. The exact opposite of “edification—Eph. 4:29—edify the hearers; II Cor. 13:10—“tearing down/building up.”
- B. Those involved in Profane Talk—Give such talk “a wide berth”—go way around it! (16)
 1. Such talk is “common/not sacred, accessible to all, not specially pure and holy”
 2. Such talk is “empty, vain”—empty talk/voice.”
 3. Such talk “cuts forward/makes advance” in only one direction—**further ungodliness**.
 - Cf. Lk. 2:52—Jesus’ advance in 4-fold growth.
 - Cf. Gal. 1:14—Paul’s advance in Judaism.
 - Cf. Rom. 13:12—the advance of night.
 - See 3:13—evil men & impostors advance from bad to worse.
 - Here, **the only real advance is unto MORE ungodliness**.
 - These teachers likely saw themselves as “**progressives**”; they were intellectually advanced and alive to new truth; in reality they only increased error and ungodliness.
 - **You Timothy must “cut straight” the word of truth (v. 15) so that the words of errorists do not cut forward—make progress.**
- C. Those Involved with Infectious Talk (17)
 1. It is mere “talk”—word.
 2. It will “have pasture”—find grazing area and spread rapidly.
 3. It is like **gangrene** (the actual word in Greek)—verbal root “gnaw, eat”; “an eating and spreading disease.

- So it is with heresy.
 - The term often used with medical writers.
- D. Doctrinal Heretics (17b-18)
1. Hymenaeus and Philetus (17b)
 - Cf. Hymenaeus and Alexander in I Tim. 6:19-20.
 - Hymenaeus is in common here and there; he had rejected “faith & good conscience.
 - “Shipwrecked” in regard to faith.
 - Delivered to Satan (I Tim. 6:20).
 2. “Gone astray from the truth (18)
 - a. Rejected authoritative teaching of both the Scriptures and the Apostles—cf. “word of truth” (v. 15).
 - They have missed the mark.
 - Forsook “good conscience and sincere faith” (1:5); gone astray from the faith (6:21).
 - b. Denied a Vital Biblical Doctrine—the bodily resurrection.
 - Said that it had already occurred—cf. Rom. 6:3-4; Eph. 2:6; Phil. 3:11; Col. 2:12.
 - Totally fulfilled in the “spiritual resurrection; no literal res. of the body.
 - This error was “pernicious and fundamental.”
 - Moreover, the context here (esp. v. 19—“who name the name of the Lord”) indicates that these men claimed to be believers.
 - c. “Upsetting the faith of some”—cf. “catastrophe”/tearing down” the hearers (14).

II. CHRISTIAN WORKERS THAT WILL NOT BE ASHAMED (15)

The value of self-discipline cannot be too highly estimated, for the most effective refutation of error is for **the teacher to be the living embodiment of truth**, with God’s approval upon him.

A. Diligence is required: **A Yiddish proverb states, “If you want your dreams to come true, don’t sleep.”**

B. Presentation to God as the Judge/Evaluator

1. Yourself—approved after having been tested/evaluated.
2. Workman

a. Not Ashamed—after his work is evaluated by the “Foreman.”

b. “Cutting Straight the word of truth.”

- Only other 2 uses of verb is in Proverbs—3:6; 11:5—cutting a straight road/path.

- The word in usage has come to mean primarily “**straight/accurate handling**.”

C. “The Word of Truth” is the field of endeavor for the Workman.

Thus, the expositor/teacher/preacher “does not **change, pervert mutilate, or distort it, neither does he use it with a wrong purpose in mind.**” (H. 263) Instead he:

- 1) Interprets prayerfully in the light of other Scripture
- 2) Makes application courageously and yet with love in order to glorify God, convert sinners, and edify saints.
- 3) “Cuts along a straight line” in regard to the Scriptures, which has the idea of being painstakingly accurate both in **one’s study and preparation**, and in one’s **teaching, preaching, and application** as the result of such preparation.

CONCLUSION

APPROVED WORKMEN WILL NOT BE ASHAMED—**WILL YOU BE ONE OF THEM?**

Be diligent. Be prepared for your evaluation. Handle the “Word of Truth accurately. Avoid and oppose error.