

~ **Your Work** ~
A Defining Moment
2 Timothy 2:15

I recently referred to a quote that has to be one of the most compelling challenges delivered by any statesman in the past 200 years. There is an irresistible grip within its words that has the force to rescue us from the norm of apathy and the contentment of mediocrity. Even in its humanism, it gives cause for hope, anticipation, and a vision for commitment to excellence in every area of life. Sir Winston Churchill not only spoke the words but also lived them in such an extraordinary way that it defined his greatness as a leader.

“To every man somewhere in his lifetime, there comes a special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered a chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared, unqualified for the work which could be his finest hour.”

Imagine for a moment what that “very special thing” might be for you, something of such significance that it would become your identity years from now. Imagine as well that the “special moment” is yet future. Are you prepared for it? What if that “special thing” transcends anything you could have imagined? How would you prepare for the unimaginable?

It may come as a shock to many of us that most find the church and the people who comprise the church to be pretty boring. Why do you think this is so? It certainly cannot be what God had in mind and it certainly is not reflected in the history of His people.

Could it be that we have allowed ourselves to be lulled into the natural course of a culture living from crisis to crisis, experience to experience in an attempt to discover that “very special thing” only to find we are “unprepared, unqualified for the work which could be (our) finest hour”?

If the words of Jeremiah are true, “I know the plans (work) I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope,” and if as Paul wrote, “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we would ask or think, according to the power that works within us,” then wouldn't it be wise to step beyond the confines of the culture into the “very special thing” He has for our finest work?

Today we will look at a very simple yet complex passage that is guaranteed to shape our character and prepare us to be qualified and prepared for the work that could be our finest hour.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on 2 Timothy 2:15, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman, who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*”
2. When you think about the “workman . . . not ashamed,” what does it say about your character, purpose, decisions, and relationships? Consider: Eph 2:1-10; 3:14-21; 6:10-20
Phil 2:2:1-8; 3:8-17; 4:4-13
3. Imagine for a moment that where you will be and what you will be doing tomorrow will provide that “special moment” God has planned for you in which to do “a very special thing.” How does that possibility set the tone for how you prepare for tomorrow? For your future?

4. Especially for high school students: It has been said that your next decision could radically alter the direction of the rest of your life. How would you define and value the effect Scripture has on your decisions and actions? [2 Pet 1:2-4; 5-8; 2 Tim 3:16-17](#)
5. What are specific steps you will take to “diligently present yourself” as a well prepared, biblically prepared workman?

“Any goal we have that diverts us even to the slightest degree from the central goal of being “approved of God” may result in our rejection from further service to Him.” - Oswald Chambers

The preeminence of Scripture is foundational to shaping the character and work of the Christian.

WHAT GOD HAS DONE TO ENABLE US TO DO HIS WORK:
THE POSITION

- Eph 2:1-10
 - We were dead/spiritually – limited
 - He made us alive/by grace
- Eph 2:10
 - √ We are His workmanship
 - √ created for good works
 - √ to do them
 - √

WHAT WE MUST DO TO EXECUTE HIS WORK:

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God. . .”

THE PERSONALIZATION
 Who We Serve

Old Testament God – impersonal [Heb 9:11-15](#)
 New Testament God – personal

Be diligent = to have a zealous persistence to accomplish a particular objective [Jam 1:2](#)

Present yourself = personal responsibility [Rom 6:14-18; 2 Cor 5:9](#)

Approved to God = tested/purified [1 Cor 3:10-15](#)

“Handling accurately the word of truth.”

THE PREPARATION
 What We Know

Handling accurately = to cut straight
 Avoid diversions [Eph 4:14-16](#)
 Adhere to doctrine

Word of truth [2 Tim 3:16-17](#)
[Heb 4:12-16](#)

“As a workman, who does not need to be ashamed. . .”

THE PRACTICE

What We Do

To anticipate . . . Well done, good and faithful servant (Matt 25:23)

Reason to be ashamed . . .

2 Tim 1:6-8 Central – *Word*

2 Tim 1:12-13 Central – *Word*

2 Tim 1:16 Central – *Mercy*

- Immediate context: 2 Tim 2:2
“And the things which you have heard from me . . . entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

- Larger context:
Simple obedience & application of Scripture
 - Change our character (Isaiah 9:6)
 1. Wisdom 3. Perspective
 2. Strength 4. Peace
 - Prepare us for the work

PRAYER

Father in Heaven

Thank You for Your grace that has made it possible to have a personal relationship with You.

Thank You for creating me with a purpose beyond myself and with eternal significance.

I ask that You create in me an appetite for You and Your Word.

I ask that You make me a student of Your Word and that Your truth will define what I do and who I am.

Thank You for the privilege of being the object of your grace that I may reflect You in every area of my life.

In Jesus’ Holy name,

Amen