

## ***“Study to show yourself approved....”***

Paul wrote to Timothy about a number of important subjects. Some were deeply personal, such as II Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” (KJV). That wording harkens back to 1611 when the King James Version was translated. In that day, “Study” meant to “be diligent” or to “work hard” toward an end.

Newer translations, such as the New American Standard, translate the verse “Be diligent.” Of course being diligent would include *studying* the scriptures as well as striving hard to be who God is calling us to be (I Corinthians 11:1, calls us to imitate Paul as he is imitating Christ).

It’s certainly no secret that many modern Christians simply ignore Paul’s admonition to diligence and rely on their preachers to tell them what God says and how to accomplish it. But one of the silver linings of the Corona Virus cloud is that more people are taking the time to study on their own. And more people are helping their children learn from God’s word during the lockdowns around our nation. Just today one of our members was sharing with me how their family is spending time reading scripture each afternoon.

I find it very encouraging that committed Christians are seeking worship online and finding time to share Jesus with their children. This brings other important elements to home study. Acts 5:42 says they were sharing Jesus in the temple *and from house to house*. Today, with God’s word in our hands, we need to remember Paul’s words in Ephesians 3:4, “...when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ....” We can understand what we read. We can share it with others. We can share it, “from house to house” and within our own homes.

I am truly overjoyed when I see God’s people learning and loving God’s laws at home, in their own families. No wonder king David wrote so much about loving the word of God (read Psalm 1 and Psalm 119). And keep on keeping on!

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