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# The Wooley Springs Helper

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January 16, 2022

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## **AN APPROVED WORKMAN**

Paul instructs Timothy on how to be a servant approved before God when he says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (KJV 2 Timothy 2:15) Lest we give a cursory examination of the word study in this text, note the ASV, NASB and other translations use the word diligent.

The Greek word and definition for the word study is: *spoudazo*: to make effort, be prompt or earnest - endeavour, do diligence, be diligent, give diligence, be forward, labor, study (Strong's Dictionary of Bible Words).

The gist of this passage is in order to be approved before God we must give this diligence. Now, surely no one would deny his desire to be approved of God. This passage tells us one who is approved of God is one who is not ashamed of who he is and what he does because he rightly divides the word of truth. Rightly dividing the word of truth means to handle it, understand it and teach it accurately. And, of course he gives us the pathway for us to accomplish this. Study, give diligence, labor at it until our understanding is accurate and then teach it to others (Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 2:2).

There are two very important conclusions to be made by the child of God if he wishes to be approved by God. First, we must come to an understanding of the word of truth. Paul speaks of his teaching the truth as the mystery of the gospel and says we can understand it. "How that by revelation he made known unto me the

mystery: (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;" (Ephesians 3:3-5) Second, we must teach others accurately the Scriptures, the gospel, the truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit to the apostles.

These two goals will require diligence. They will demand we give heed to what God says and not the doctrines of men (2 John 9). The ministry of our Lord is filled with his communication with a very religious group, the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. Yet as religious as they were, they were condemned for being hypocrites. They were hypocrites because He showed them He was from God and they still rejected both Him and His message.

The challenge for every person who strives to be approved of God is to give diligence to understand His message and then to accept it in spite of what those closest to you may think of your actions.

The numbers of people on the face of the earth who practice or hold to some religion is a very large number. Much larger than many believe. And yet of all of us, Jesus says this, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

As a heads up to all men, Jesus warns us there will be influences in our lives we have to reject and friends and relatives we have to discard to accept this truth He has revealed. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 10:34-39)

Do you wish to be approved of God? Have you diligently applied yourself to understand what the Scriptures teach? Can you, once you understand it, put everything and everyone who distracts you from it away from you? This is the demand of the one who chooses the strait and narrow way.

– Jim Stauffer, *The Lenexa Edifier*

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## ***DOUBLE-MINDED***

Hebrews 10:23 reads, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful”. Are you someone who wavers in your faith? Some Christians live lives that rival even some of the most ruthless villains in movies because they can’t seem to determine who they want to be - the good or bad guy. God has given each of us the free will to make choices; and when we choose God, he wants us to stand firm in the faith without wavering. The definition of waver is to be undecided between two opinions or courses of action, to be irresolute. James 1:8 reads, “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways”. The Greek word translated for “double-minded” is *dipsuchos*, from *dis*, meaning “twice,” and *psuche*, meaning “mind.” This is describing someone who is divided in just about every area of his or her life, particularly in the area of loyalty. Wavering can cause us to fall into a life of uncertainty and this in turn can lead to a swinging door that hinges on being two-faced and half-hearted in our devotion and obedience to God.

As followers of Christ, we must examine ourselves and make certain double-mindedness does not describe us. We must be fully devoted and obedient to God; not because He asks us to, but because we love Him. What about you or me, are we double-minded and half-hearted when it comes to worshipping God? It’s a good question to ask because in examining ourselves, we can determine if sustainable change is needed in this very important area of our lives. When we allow Satan to become our master and not the God of heaven, we are between two options; thus, we are being double-minded. The Bible doesn’t say a double-minded →

person is unstable in some ways, it says this person is unstable in all of their ways. God's word brings balance and wisdom in our lives when we obey it and it steadies us while we wait for his return.

How do we live before the world? Is it as someone who is double-minded and unstable? You see many want to fit in with the world and throw God in every once in a while. Does this describe us? Do our coworkers know that we are Christians? I heard a quote that said, "The best way to stand out is to stop trying to fit in". People should know that we are Christians by the way we stand out. We must decide who we are and to whom we belong. If it is God, we need to be fully devoted to Him in mind, body and spirit. If the world, then be fully devoted to it. God will accept nothing less. Jesus says in Revelation 3:16, "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth". When we choose God, we will be faithful and unwavering in our mind and in our love for God.

– Kristopher Sanders

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Funeral services for **Teresa Faulk** were held on Tuesday in Ardmore. Teresa passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Timothy Hice** passed away last Sunday. He was the uncle of Dustin Hice, formerly a member here. Services were held yesterday.

Please remember these families in your prayers.

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**Linda Faulk** suffered a broken leg on Tuesday and had surgery on Wednesday in Huntsville. The surgery went well and she is able to walk with assistance.

Continue to pray for **Wesley Abernathy, Jesse McCune, David and Adams, Ruth Fisk, Teresa Broadway, Chessie Harwell, Richard Clapp, and Jane Belew.**