



# Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

# Handling The Word

Unashamed Workman

**II Timothy 2:14-19**

**Lesson Six**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Second Timothy

## Paul's Last Words

### Handling the Word—II Timothy 2:14-19

Today we hear Paul, once again, encouraging Timothy to warn the people of Ephesus. He is to warn them about the way they use their words. Read II Timothy 2:14-19.

Someone said that if the world's problems could be solved by talking, they would all have been solved long ago. There are those who want to debate everything but never want to do anything about it. Paul had no patience with that kind of folks.

He said to "warn them before God." The New Testament, in several places, has words about quarrelling. Even Jesus spoke of it. Now, Paul is saying that Timothy, when he speaks about it, should call God as a witness. And, Paul specifies quarrelling "with words." These are people who get angry with one another and try to out-talk the other person. Paul said that this is of no value in dealing with the subject at hand. It only ruins those who listen.

What we have here is the picture of people who think that they are smart, and love to hear themselves talk. They enjoy fighting, as long as it is a battle of words, cleverly spoken and intended to harm the other person. There is nothing to be gained by such talk. Scripture urges us to build one another up in the faith.

In the case of these arguments, these quarrels, people are not being built up, they are being torn down. Their Christian confidence is being ruined, shattered, worn down, by these useless arguments.

Now, just in case there is misunderstanding, there is a place for constructive discussion that deals with God's truth. But, that is not what Paul was talking about here.

Paul goes on to dictate one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. He said, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

Timothy is to live a life that is the opposite of the false teachers. He said, again calling God as a witness, that Timothy is to prove himself to God as a workman. And the word "approved" tells us that this is something or someone who has been tested before God. He is so very different from these false teachers who recklessly, destructively demolish people's faith.

Timothy is to be the model for others. He has no reason to be ashamed. What he is teaching is the truth, tested by God, approved by Paul, and ready to be a blessing to those who hear.

# Second Timothy

## Paul's Last Words

### Handling the Word—II Timothy 2:14-19

Timothy is the one who will be “accurately handling the word of truth.” This phrase “accurately handling” was translated in the King James Version of the Bible as “rightly dividing.” Through the years there have been many attempts to draw a picture of what that meant. One compared it to a person who serves a meal by dividing out the food equally to those who eat...no one gets more than their fair share. The Greeks used the word to describe a straight road running through the countryside.

So, Timothy was to, in all fairness, cut straight through with the truth and not get sidetracked by attractive side roads that may lead to failure in communicating the truth of God.

Paul goes on to point out that the message of the false prophets is nothing more than chatter that leads people away from God, and the truth God wants all the world to know. He said that that chatter is like gangrene, a disease that in those days would eat up a body without any hope of a cure. A church can be destroyed by such chatter.

He then goes so far as to name two of the false prophets who are spreading this teaching. The false teaching was that the resurrection had already taken place. Now, don't be confused. He is not talking here about the resurrection of Jesus. There was a teaching based on Greek philosophy that the human resurrection took place when a person was baptized, or it took place through one's children. You lived on through your sons and daughters.

Paul's response is, God knows who His children are and He will care for them. This, for Paul, is the bottom line, the foundation of it all. It is God's signature and mark of personal ownership, His seal. Also, Paul said that the true believers would not be characterized by wickedness. Yes, Christians sin, we fail, but our eyes are always on doing the right thing.

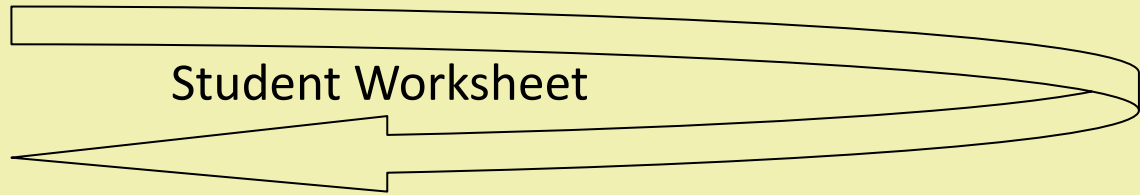
\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

**Scripture Memory:** “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to be good stewards of the Good News and to teach it accurately, not involving themselves in silly arguments.

# Second Timothy

## Paul's Last Words



### Student Worksheet

#### Handling the Word—II Timothy 2:14-19

- What kind of folks does the lesson say Paul had no patience with?
- What happens to those listening when people get involve in arguments.
- Why does Timothy have no reason to “be ashamed?”
- So, Timothy was to, in all \_\_\_\_\_, cut straight through with the truth and not get side tracked by attractive side roads that may lead to failure in communicating the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- To what disease did Paul compare the message of the false prophets?
- What did Paul say was the bottom line, the foundation of it all; God’s signature, His seal?

**Scripture Memory:** “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” II Timothy 2:15

#### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.