

*Handle With Care*

2 Timothy 2:14-19

2 Timothy 2 gives us 7 pictures of the Christian Life

A **son** who is strong. 2:1-2

A **soldier** who is loyal. 2:3-4

An **athlete** who is obedient. 2:5

A **farmer** who is diligent. 2:6

A **workman** who is careful. 2:14-19

A **vessel** that is pure. 2:20-23

A **servant** who is gentle. 2:24-26

Today, we want to examine the fifth picture, A WORKMAN who is CAREFUL. The central theme is that we must handle the Word of God with great care, like a skillful workman.

Recently I had the privilege of teaching the book of 2 Timothy to Bible college students in the Philippines. We focused on these 7 pictures of the Christian life.

Some things require that we HANDLE with CARE

*During this trip to the Philippines, we visited Corregidor, a strategic island in Manila Bay that was the scene of fierce fighting during the second world war. While searching for remnants from the 2 major battles on this island, we found a round brass object with a protruding stem. Was this a Japanese landmine? A Hand grenade? None of us were experts, but you can be sure that we handled this with care!*

*After more research, our final conclusion was that we found an old brass door knob. Our mundane conclusion didn't rob us of the excitement and concern when we first discovered the mysterious object from long ago!*

*We were careful with our discovery. For a while, we thought it had the potential for great power. So it is with the Word of God. It is powerful and not to be taken casually. We must understand how to use it and handle it with great care.*

The TOOL of a Christian workman is the WORLD of GOD

- I. The CHARACTER of a Careful Workman. 2:14-15
  - A. ZEAL for the Word of God (enthusiasm, eagerness)
    1. "Do your best (NIV)."
    2. **KJV** = "**Study** to show thyself approved,"

3. NAS = "be diligent to present yourself"
4. Greek σπουδάζω
5. "be zealous or eager, take pains, make every effort" (BAGD)
6. (2 Peter 3:14) "So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort** to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him."
7. (Ephesians 4:3) "**Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
8. *Ilus* - ZEAL of the WOL students and staff.

B. COMMITMENT to the Word of God

1. "Do your best to **present yourself to God...**" (NIV)
2. "place beside, put at someone's disposal" BAGD
3. **KJV** = "Study to **show thyself ..**"
4. Aorist verbs -
5. The presentation is a commitment of your life.
6. Have you **committed your life** to serving the Lord??
7. It's a decision from which there is no GOING BACK.

C. CONFIDENCE in the Word of God

1. "A workman who does not need to be ashamed"
2. Only time in NT
3. Combination of 2 words,
4. "No disfigurement, nothing to hide."

D. SKILL in handling the Word of God

1. "Correctly handles the Word of Truth"
2. Lit "to cut a straight path"
3. Only time in NT
4. Only other known usage is in the LXX
  - a. (Proverbs 3:6) "*in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*"
  - b. (Proverbs 11:5) "*The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.*"
5. "Plainly means cut a path in a straight direction or cut a road across country (that is forested or otherwise difficult to pass through) in a straight direction, so that the traveler may go directly to his destination Then this would perhaps mean **guide the word of truth along a straight path (like a road that goes straight to its goal), without being turned aside by wordy debates or impious talk**" BAGD

6. The WORD of GOD is not a NOVELTY
7. We must take the Word straight to the issues in peoples lives
8. THE WORLD rejects truth. But God's word is truth! (John 17:17)  
*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*

II. The CAUTION to a CAREFUL WORKMAN. 2:16-17

- A. Avoid godless chatter
- B. Some indulge in it and their cancer will spread

III. The PROMISE to a CAREFUL WORKMAN. 2:19

- A. God's Word is our SOURCE of SALVATION. "God's solid foundation stands firm." 1 Peter 1:23 *"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, the living and enduring **Word of God.**"*
- B. God's Word is our ASSURANCE of SALVATION. "The Lord knows those who are his"
- C. God's Word is our POWER for HOLY LIVING. Our "Everyone who confesses the Name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness"

Paul is telling Timothy to handle the Word of God like a CRAFTSMAN.