

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: March 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.



March Birthdays

8 Drina Zamarripa. 18 Buddy Cashion
28 Sandra Jones 30 Barrett Hoffman

March Anniversaries

6 Harold & Dortha Gentry

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The Paradox of the Cross

By House to House Heart to Heart

By Eugene Britnell

The cross of Christ is the greatest of all paradoxes. It was the most tragic event in the history of the world, yet the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It was the saddest spectacle man ever beheld, yet it was the most stunning defeat satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ ever won. He won by losing. He conquered by surrendering.

The cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin, yet the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin. It was God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, yet His supreme proof of love for the sinner.

The cross was the darkest hour in history, yet it was the time of greatest light. Though the sun refused to shine, and God hid his face from Christ, the cross was the means by which Christ became "*the light of the world*" (John 8:12). In the cross, we see man's hatred for Christ, yet we see Christ's love for man. There we see human vengeance as the crowds cried for His blood, yet we see divine forgiveness as Jesus prayed, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*" (Luke 23:34).

The cross portrays man's sinfulness and God's holiness; human weakness and divine strength. It demonstrates man's inability to save himself, and God's ability and power to do this for him. The cross, from the human standpoint, is foolishness; yet it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God.

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

What does it mean to “study to show thyself approved unto God?”

By House to House Heart to Heart

The apostle Paul wrote to the evangelist Timothy, “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15).

This verse well-illustrates the need for understanding that word meanings may change, and we must be ever on guard against misapplying or twisting scripture, even when we try to teach the truth. The rendering, study to show thyself approved unto God is found only in the King James Version, translated in the year 1611. In 1611 the word study meant strive or be diligent. Thus, the New American Standard Bible renders the verse, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*” The New International Version renders the verse, “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*”

Bible study is very important, but 2 Timothy 2:15 is not just a command to study the Bible. Being an approved workman involves much more. Paul wanted Timothy to understand that to be a workman that God could approve, he would have to be diligent in his service to God. God is not the kind of Master that accepts shoddy work! By earnestly applying himself in service, Timothy would not need to be ashamed as he stood before God in the day of judgment. To be that diligent, approved workman, he would have to correctly handle the word of truth, what the King James Version renders, rightly dividing the word of truth. Of necessity, correctly handling the Bible, the word of truth will involve much study, contemplation, and prayer. It will involve bringing an open mind, an open heart, and a faithful life to the word of truth. Implied in the correct handling is the proper understanding of the divisions between the Old and the New Covenants, understanding that the New Testament is the rule of faith and practice for Christians today.

The goal of being an approved workman should be the goal of all of God’s children. In the verses immediately before 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul stressed the importance of living faithfully before God, even to the point of suffering. “*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us*” (2 Timothy 2:12). He then told Timothy, “*Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers*” (2 Timothy 2:14). The evangelist Timothy was to remind his hearers of the sacrifice of Christ, the need for serving Him, and the need to work diligently to be approved workmen before God. The diligent application of all our energy to the service of God will allow us to join Timothy standing before God without shame. Nothing will help us more to please God than to handle carefully and correctly God’s written word. We should look to the written word of God with the same reverence as the psalmist who wrote, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*” (Psalm 119:105).

You Tell on Yourself

By Marie Losavio

*You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
By the manner in which you speak
By the way you employ your leisure time
By the way you make use of your dollar and dime.
You tell what you are by the clothes you wear
By the spirit in which your burdens you bear
By the kinds of things at which you laugh
By the records you play on your phonograph
You show what you are by the way you walk
By the subjects of which you like to talk
By the manner in which you bear defeat
By the foods you choose and the way you eat
By the books you select from the library shelf.
In these ways and others you tell on yourself
So there is not a bit of common sense
In trying to keep up a false pretense*

Shared by Barrett Hoffman