

# CUTTING IT STRAIGHT

2 Timothy 2:14-19

How do we as a church respond to the challenges of postmodernism?

2008

## CUTTING IT STRAIGHT

Cut a crooked path doctrinally, and you'll bring shame to yourself and subsequently to the church.

When was the last time you pondered God's glory and your eternal destiny?

When it comes to matters of the truth, we must contend for it like **Jude 3 commands**: *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

The workman handles the Word of God **CORRECTLY** privately and publicly.

Scripture is **INERRANT**, **TIMELESS** Truth. Since Genesis, the devil himself desires to cast doubt on, deny, and ultimately distort the Truth.

To the world, the Bible seems **NARROW** & **INTOLERANT**.

## The Command

2 Timothy 2:14-15

### REMIND THEM OF WHAT?

“...these things...”

- The **FAITHFUL** saying (vs. 11-13)

### DO NOT DO

“...charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit...”

- The Christian church is led by men whose responsibility it is to lead the way in **RESISTING** falsehood by warning of danger from heresy and exposing its error.

### TO DO WHAT?

“...be diligent...”

**Study**: make **EVERY** effort!

“...to present yourself approved to God...”

**Active presentation to God**: God's righteousness at **WORK** in a believer's life.

- The **PRESENTATION** (Romans 12:1)
- The **CONFORMATION** (Romans 12:2)
- For the believer this is the only way to peace and joy!

“...approved worker who does not need to be ashamed...”

**Laborer of God**: Metaphor relating to various occupations.

- Approved: *tested & proven, fit for use*
- Worker: *practical craftsman*
- Who does not need to be ashamed:
- **HEAD** (Romans 6:11)
- **HANDS** (Romans 6:12)

“...rightly dividing the word of truth...”

**Cut it straight**: **CORRECTLY** explain, truth made clear to people.

- Not simply teach the Bible, but teach people the Bible!

## The Error

### DETOUR AROUND

“...shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.” 2 Timothy 2:16

- Be on the continuous **ALERT!**

### GANGRENE

“And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort...” 2 Timothy 2:17

- If not avoided, false doctrines will spread to cause **RUIN** in the church.
- 1 Timothy 6:20-21
- False doctrine **FEEDS** on spiritual superficiality and moral laxity.

### FALSE DOCTRINES

“...who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.” 2 Timothy 2:18

- Out to **DENY** the resurrection of Christ!
- Philippians 3:20 Different aspirations: we eagerly **WAIT** for our Savior!
- Phil. 3:21 Different destinations: this is **NOT** our final resting place!

## The Foundation

### GOD’S FOUNDATION HAS A 2-FOLD UNCHANGEABLE INSCRIPTION

“Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal...”  
2 Timothy 2:19a

- Stamped genuineness – **NO ONE** can overturn the firm purpose of God
- 1 Timothy 3:15

### THE SEAL OF THE SAVED: GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY

“The Lord knows those who are His” 2 Timothy 2:19b

- God **KNOWS** those who belong to Him!

### THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SAVED: MAN’S RESPONSIBILITY

“Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”  
2 Timothy 2:19b

- **SOLID** firm foundation is the basis for departing from evil.

## Cutting it Straight The Heart (emotions) and Head (thought) of Worship

John 4:23-24

### 1. We must realize that Christians are to read the Bible two ways:

- As **SOLDIER/ SERVANT** (John 14:15)
- As **STUDENT** (Joshua 1:8-9)
- The bottom line: An approved workman is courageous, not fearful.

### 2. Defining an approved workman

- **PASSIONATE** (John 3:6)
- Divine **REVELATION** (John 16:13)

### 3. Need not be ashamed

- Strong in spirit, passionate worshippers danger = **LIBERAL !**
- 1 Timothy 1:3-5

### 4. Rightly dividing the word of Truth using all Scripture

- Legalistic, letter of law danger = **TURNED COLD!**
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Our convictions must be Biblical – universally accepted.

### How do we as a church respond to the challenges of postmodernism?

**Passion** ~ We must fight with the right attitude.  
~ Humility (John 5:39-44)

**Knowledge** ~ We must use the right methods.  
~ Doctrine (John 20:31)

**Belief** ~ We must choose the right battle.  
~ Jesus (John 3:16)