

## BEING APPROVED OF GOD

### 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. As children seek approval from their parents, so also do the children of God seek approval from their eternal Father.
2. Having God's approval does not come from the word of God, but from the proper use of it.
3. **2 TIMOTHY 2.15:** *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God...rightly dividing the word of truth"*

#### I. THE APPROVAL THAT ONE DESIRES

- A. Perhaps the most common places from which we seek approval is from ourselves. (Luke 18.9-14; Rom. 10.1-3)
  1. The foolishness of self-righteousness. (2 Cor. 10.12)
  2. **2 CORINTHIANS 10.18:** *"for not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends."*
- B. Seeking approval of man, some obey man rather than God.
  1. While desiring to obey, some did not because they feared the Pharisees. (John 12.42,43; 5.44)
  2. Pleasing men leads to hypocrisy. (Luke 16.15)

#### II. "RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH"

- A. Not to be taken casually, but with diligence. (2 Tim. 2.15)
  1. Diligent: Gr: spoudazo "make every effort" [Strong]
  2. We are diligent because the need is urgent! (Rom. 13.11)
- B. *"Rightly dividing the word of truth"* is a common and oft used expression, but what does it mean? (cf. 1 Tim. 1.8)
  1. Gaining the proper meaning. (Eph. 5.17; 2 Pet. 3.16)
  2. Sharing with the proper motivation. (Phil. 1.15-17)
  3. Living by the proper method. (2 Tim. 2.5; Matt. 23.3)

#### III. FINDING APPROVAL BY GIVING APPROVAL

- A. We can never expect approval from God as long as we approve of the things that are contrary to Him. (Rom. 1.32)
  1. How do we show approval? (Eph. 5.11; 2 Thes. 3.14)
  2. Instead, Christians approve of those things which are excellent. (Phil. 1.9,10; 1 Thes. 5.21)
- B. Religion which approves not of those things that God has authorized is religion not worth practicing. (John 6.46)

**CONCLUSION:** Is there anything else more worthy to pursue?

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#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping  
God "in Spirit  
and truth"  
(John 4.23)*

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#### THE JUDGMENT OF MAN OR GOD?

The judgment of man is not always going to be based on truth. Human beings for all their good intentions have difficulty being unbiased in their conclusions. Grudges and hurt feelings may lead one to harsher judgments that are emotion based rather than fact based. Lacking the full facts can result in judgments that are later overturned when (and if) the truth comes to light.

After David sinned against God by numbering the people of Israel, Gad came to David offering him a choice of punishment: Seven years of famine, three months of fleeing from his enemies, or three days of plague in the land (2 Sam. 24.10-13). What did David choose? **2 SAMUEL 24.14:** *"Please let us fall in to the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of men."* David knew that the character of God was one of mercy and grace while the judgment of man would lack the compassion that he desired.

The judgment of God will be according to righteousness (Rom. 2.1-4). There will be no favoritism, no faulty judgments due to misrepresented truths. There will be no one righteous who will be wrongly accused and condemned, nor will there be any wicked who will get off on a technicality (Rev. 21.27).

How comforting to know that if we abide by the word of God and do all according to what He has revealed, there is no fear in judgment. For the love of God in the sacrifice of Christ offered a way to stand before Him in judgment as righteous (1 John 4.17,18). But be assured of this: Those who reject Christ and obey not His commands... (Heb. 10.27) CLP

## LEARNING NOT TO GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN

### 1 CORINTHIANS 4:6

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Factions within the church of Corinth led some religious leaders to be exalted above others. (1 Cor. 1.10; 2.3,4; 3.5,9,21; 4.1-5)
2. Using himself and Apollos as examples Paul teaches that they were not to think of them beyond what he had written. (1 Cor. 4.6)
3. This important principle cannot be overlooked, for only when we stay within the bounds of biblical authority can we please God.

#### I. THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Why is the word of God authoritative? Because all authority comes from God. (Ex. 5.1,2; Rom. 13.1)
  1. As both Creator and Sustainer of the universe, God is, by all rights, the ultimate authority. (Acts 17.24-27)
  2. Like the potter over the clay, God has sovereign power over His creation. (Jer. 18.1-6; Rom. 9.20,21)
- B. Since God alone has the inherent right to command, religious authority resides not with man. (Jer. 10.23)
  1. There are serious consequences to adding, manipulating or altering the word of God. (Gal. 1.6-9; Prov. 30.6)
  2. By this word we will be judged. (John 12.48)

#### II. WHY DOES MAN GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN?

- A. Man has often taken an improper or misguided attitude toward authority. (1 Pet. 4.11; Matt. 15.8,9)
  1. Some did not develop respect for authority. (1 Sam. 3.13)
  2. The end justifies the means? (Matt. 7.21-23)
  3. The word of God is not longer applicable in our modern times? (Mal. 3.6; Heb. 13.8; Jude 3)
  4. Human characteristics are attributed to God.
- B. With good intention, the word of God is often improperly understood. (2 Pet. 3.16; Acts 17:11)
  1. Overextension of the principle of expedience. (Col. 3.17)
  2. Misuse of the silence of scripture. (Acts 15.24; Heb. 7.14)
  3. Misapplication of context. (Heb. 7.18,19 ;2 Tim. 2.15)
- C. Yet, "...whatever is not from faith is sin" (Rom. 14.23)

**CONCLUSION:** Only when we do things God's way can we be assured that we have God's approval. (2 Tim. 2.15)

## A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

The cover of People magazine's Most Beautiful edition displays a picture of Christina Applegate. Flipping through the pages of the magazine will reveal her secrets to looking as good as she does including diet, hair products, make-up, wardrobe, etc. Did People magazine get it right? Is Christina Applegate the most beautiful woman in 2009?

The problem with beauty is that it is very subjective. It is true that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." However, the only eyes that really matter are the eyes of God. And the most beautiful woman in the eyes of God does not depend on the kind of hair products she uses or the shade of lipstick. It is the person of the heart.

Peter describes the most beautiful woman not in term of outer beauty with "*arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel*" (1 Pet. 3.3). Indeed such a woman can be beautiful on the outside, but have a character as undesirable as can be. The wise man describes such a woman as a swine with a ring of gold in its snout (Prov. 11.22).

The true beauty of a woman radiates from within. It is the "*...incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God*" (1 Pet. 3.4). This godly woman is full of good works (Acts 9.36). She is trustworthy as her husband and children can trust her (Prov. 31.11,12). She strives to be an example of godliness to those around her as she "*...the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children*" (Titus 2.4). She is an example to her husband so that "*even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives*" (1 Pet. 3.1).

In a world where appearance is most important quality in both man and woman, where magazines and television portray the beautiful woman as a picture of physical perfection, women are compelled to meet this unfair and unimportant standard. It makes the godly woman valuable not only intrinsically, but because of scarcity. No wonder the question was asked in **PROVERBS 31.10**: "*Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.*"

For those seeking to be truly beautiful, remember: "*Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised*" (Prov. 31.30). CLP