Called to Be Craftsmen

II Timothy 2:14-19

Introduction

“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will perform before kings!” Proverbs 22:29

We all admire craftsmanship.

The text we are looking at today calls us to be craftsmen with God’s word.

I. A Craftsman knows his tools. II Timothy 2:14, 16-18

Paul knew that false teaching would be one of the greatest dangers in the church.

So Paul exhorts Timothy to:

• Keep reminding them of these things.
• Warn against quarreling about words.
• Avoid godless chatter.

It leads to ruin (catastrophe), to ungodly living and it spreads like gangrene.

Just like a craftsman knows his tools, we need to know God’s word.

How do we gain a working knowledge of the Scriptures?

It is by reading, studying and meditating on the word of God. Psalm 1

There is no better defense against doctrinal error.

There is no better way to grow in our faith.

Do you have a regular habit of reading and studying God’s word?

II. A Craftsman know how to use his tools. II Timothy 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved...who correctly handles the word of truth.”

This is the AWANA theme verse – Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed.

It is more than study. It is putting God’s word into practice in your life.

We need to handle the word of God accurately – “cut straight”.

The goal of our study is to understand what God has said.
That’s why learning how to read and study the Scriptures is important.

- **Observation** – What does it say?
- **Interpretation** – What does it mean?
- **Application** – How does this apply to my life?
- **Correlation** – How does this passage fit with the rest of Scripture?

Our desire is to know God’s word so well we can apply it to our own life and help others to understand it too.

Do you feel comfortable that you could share the gospel clearly?

If a teenager asked you about dating or marriage, where would you turn?

What Scripture would you use to help someone struggling with grief, anger, fear, lust, jealousy, forgiveness or worry?

### III.

**A Craftsman knows who he is working for.** II Timothy 2:15 and 19

We do our best to present ourselves to God for approval, not man.

The Lord knows who are his – his people and his church.

Everyone who truly knows the Lord will turn away from wickedness.

Who are we trying to please – God or man?

God is the audience that counts ultimately.

When we stand before him two verdicts will be passed – approved or ashamed.

### Conclusion

Is this important to God?

“A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?” Jeremiah 5:30-31

“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? Jeremiah 23:25-29
"For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth. But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the LORD Almighty. “So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.”
Malachi 2:7-9

Be a Craftsman with God's word.

- Know it well.
- Handle it accurately.
- Remember who we serve.