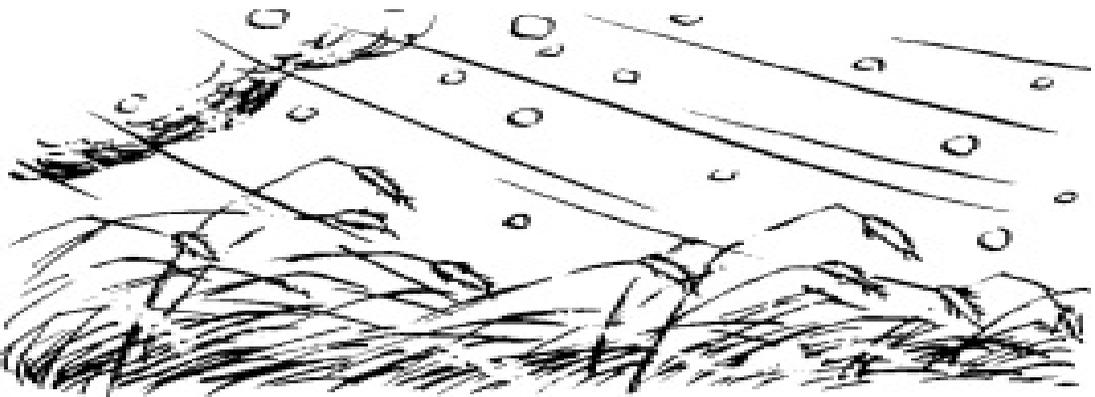




F.Y.C.

For Your Consideration

His Most Productive Crop



One growing season a farmer had a beautiful crop of grain. But a week before the harvest it was wiped out by a hailstorm. His son expected the farmer to lash out in bitterness and despair. But instead he accepted the loss in a spirit of faith and quiet acceptance.

Today this farmer's son is a person of faith who has also learned to live with failure and loss. He thinks of this devastated grain field as his father's most productive crop because it taught him a lesson he has never forgotten.

When it comes to our own children, we should remember that lessons and values which we try to teach them are more easily caught than taught. Modeling the right behavior before our children is a lot more effective than lectures and empty words. – Selected

“In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds ...”

Titus 2:7

Do you find your children mimicking your attitudes and actions?

Do you find yourself mimicking your parent's attitudes and actions? **Point made!**



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

STUDY

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

I have fond memories relating to this verse. It was my first memory verse. It has been used to encourage members to study their Bibles. (And, yes, I've used it in the same way.)

But as I began a detailed study of 2 Timothy chapter 2, I came to realize that this chapter contains the "marching orders" for Timothy who would be carrying on the work after Paul had departed this world.

Verse 15 in particular is encouraging Timothy is told to labor in such a way that he has God's approval. And that he must handle the truth correctly. Because, (note verses 16-18) there were others who did not do so.

"Study" (Greek: *spoudazo*): to make effort, to exert one's self, endeavor, give diligence.

In 1611 A.D. Middle English the word "study" meant "be deliberate." Most Bible translations now translate it "be diligent," "give diligence," or "do your best."

(NKJV) **Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(NASB) **Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

(NIV) **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.

(ISV) **Do your best** to present yourself to God as an approved worker who has nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of truth with precision.

(ASV) **Give diligence** to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.

So . . . ?

Why bring up this technical point? To teach a valuable lesson! While it is important to study our Bibles, it will be of little value unless we become *studious, diligent, and deliberate* in applying it's teachings to our daily lives. This is the very thing that Paul was encouraging Timothy to do: teach the word and live by it. Knowledge without application is, well, just so much knowledge. While it's good to study our Bibles, we must be diligent to live by what is written.

Christianity is a way of life, not just knowing or teaching Bible truths.

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**Taught – Caught – Bought**

Hear It! – Believe It! – Do It!



# Ponder This

## The Best Things in Life Are Not Things

*And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."*

Luke 12:15

Things are items to be possessed and used. All of which will be left behind when life is over.

*For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.*

1 Timothy 6:7

### What really is important in life? Relationships!

#### FRIENDS AND FAMILY

**who share our interests, aims and woes.**

*Oil and perfume make the heart glad, So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.*

Proverbs 27:9

*A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.*

Proverbs 17:17

#### BRETHREN

**who share a common faith, calling and hope.**

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!*

Psalms 133:1

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.*

Romans 12:10

*Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

2 Corinthians 13:11

#### LORD JESUS

**who we serve in this life in order to be with Him hereafter.**

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

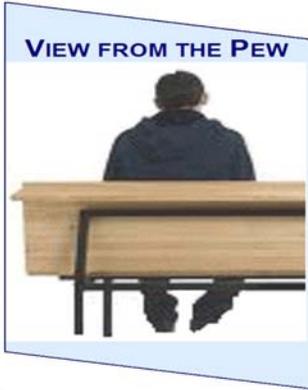
Colossians 3:23-24

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Remember: all relationships require maintenance on our part. Effort must be expended to sustain them: be friendly, love the brethren, serve the Lord.

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

2 Peter 1:10-12



THE AUDIENCE'S ATTITUDE

Sequence Of Attitudes

There's a logical sequence of attitudes that an audience goes through as they listen to someone speak.

FIRST ATTITUDE

“What Is It This Time?”

Here the speaker must grab their attention. The importance of a good introduction cannot be minimized.

SECOND ATTITUDE

“Why Bring That Up?”

Here the speaker bridges the gap between his presentation and the listeners' interest. Give them reason to listen.

THIRD ATTITUDE

“For Instance...?”

Having gained their attention, the speaker is to proceed with the matter at hand. Justify the expenditure of their time. A solid, meaty, and logical presentation is most important.

FOURTH ATTITUDE

“So ...?”

The speaker must now show the audience the full impact of the material presented, as it pertains to them individually and collectively. A good conclusion “nails it down.”

[from my book TRAINING FOR SERVICE]



Pearls from Proverbs

Jealousy

27:4 *Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*

Envy

24:19-20 *Do not fret because of evildoers, or be envious of the wicked; For there will be no future for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.*

Revenge

20:22 *Do not say, “I will repay evil”; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.*

24:29 *Do not say, “Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”*

Self-control

25:28 *Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.*

29:11 *A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back.*

Impulsive

20:25 *It is a snare for a man to say rashly, “It is holy!” And after the vows to make inquiry.*

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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