



WOW: Word Of the Week

Diligent

June 16, 2021

(2 Tim 2:15) Give diligence to present yourself as approved before God, an unashamed worker, accurately teaching [lit., cutting straight] the word of truth.

Today's reading begins with an imperative: be diligent! What does that mean to you? I like to begin with definitions and research the etymology of words: conscientious care, that which is loved, to take delight in."

You and I are called to be diligent followers of Jesus. I like the Greek word that is translated here: *spoudazo*, be eager, be ready, on call. Simply by saying the word I feel energy, newness, possibilities. *Spoudazo* is easy with reference to things I love, delight, enjoy. In the context, Paul urges Timothy to be diligent in matters related to speech and words, to "cut accurately" with regard to the word of truth. Accurate understanding of God's truth is a characteristic of the diligent Christian.

In the Christian life, there are many things we should be diligent about. Today's text says that diligence in the word of truth is essential to being approved and confident before God. Today is a good day to renew your diligence in the Word of God. Today is a good day to recommit to consistent time in the Word so you will be prepared to handle it accurately when God gives you an opportunity to stand up for and speak truth.

Dear God, teach me this day that my relationship with your living Word, Jesus, is made possible, deepened, and strengthened, by my relationship with your written Word, the Bible. Help me see clearly. Help me be prepared so I can teach accurately when others want to know the reason for my hope. In the name of Jesus, who is my hope, Amen.