

# What Must a Man Do to be Approved of God?

## 2 Tim. 2:15

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### Introduction

1. From the text, Paul says one must study, or “give diligence” “rightly dividing the word of Truth” –to be approved of God.
  - a. Heb. 5:12 – 14 – points up the fact that one must study to be approved of God.
  - b. I Tim. 4:13; Psa. 1: 1 – 2.
2. Let us now look at some other things one must do to be approved of God.

### I. TO BE APPROVED OF GOD ONE MUST BE “TRANSLATED” INTO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

- a. Col. 1: 13 “*who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.*”
- b. As “light” is of God, “darkness” is of the Devil – I John 1: 5- 7; Eph. 5:11; John 3: 19 – 20.
- c. One under the rule of Satan is under the power of darkness – Col. 1: 13.
- d. God, through Christ, will “*deliver*” us from “*the power of darkness*” or the kingdom of Satan and his dominion over our lives.
- e. And “*translate*” us into the kingdom of Christ – Col. 1: 13.
  - i. “The word here rendered “TRANSLATED” is often used in the sense of removing a people from one country to another” – [Barnes Notes](#)
  - ii. Christians have been “translated” from Satan’s kingdom into Christ’s kingdom.
  - iii. To TRANSLATE is to carry over or cross the line.
- f. God’s people are “*the called out*” – the church; they have crossed the line from the world into the kingdom of Christ.
- g. When are we “translated” into Christ’s kingdom??
  - i. When we are “*born again*” – John 3: 3 – 5
  - ii. When we are baptized – Mk. 16:15 – 16; Rom. 6:3 – 4; Acts 2:38; I Pet. 3: 20 – 21.
- h. If you have never been baptized you have not crossed the line from Satan’s kingdom – *You are still in your sins.*
  - i. *You are not approved of God.*

### II. GOD APPROVES A “TRANSFORMED LIFE”

- a. Rom. 12:1 – 2
- b. The Greek word here, rendered “transformed” is rendered “transfigured” in Matt. 17:2; Mk. 9:2.
- c. The Christian is made responsible for this charge.
- d. This transformation can be brought about only by renewing the mind, the inward man, day by day – 2 Cor. 4:16; Col. 3:10 – 17; Rom. 12:2; Psa. 1:2.
- e. The Christian must make God’s thoughts and ideals, his thoughts and ideals . . . Prov. 4:23 -- “*keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*”.

- f. The gospel in the heart works the change – I Thess. 2:13; Psa. 119:11; I Pet. 2: 1- 2; 2 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 5:12 – 14; Tit. 2: 11- 12
- g. The Christian must not fashion himself according to the former lust – I Pet. 1:14 – 15.

**III. GOD APPROVES A LIFE OF SACRIFICE—Rom. 12:1**

- a. Our bodies, as living sacrifices, are to be devoted to worship and service to God.
- b. Examples of men of God who lived lives of Sacrifice:
  - i. Abraham – Gen. 12:1 – 2; 11:31; Acts 7:2 – 4; Heb. 11: 8 – 10
    - 1. He was told to offer his son Isaac – Gen. 22:1 – 14
  - ii. Paul – Phil. 3: 7 – 8; Gal. 1: 13 – 14; 2 Cor. 11: 23 – 28.
  - iii. Jesus Christ – Luke 9: 58; 2 Cor. 8:9; I Pet. 2: 21 – 24.
- c. Today, if we are to be approved of God, we will have to make sacrifices – Matt. 16:24.

**IV. GOD APPROVES A LIFE OF FAITHFULNESS – Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:22**

- a. God said in Psa. 101:6 *“Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me”*
  - i. I Pet. 3:12
- b. Prov. 28:20 – *“A faithful man shall abound with blessings”*
- c. The Lord’s attitude toward the faithful – Matt. 25: 20 – 23.
- d. Paul said, *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”* – I Cor. 4:2.
- e. Luke 16:10

**V. GOD APPROVES A LIFE THAT IS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS**

- a. Paul told Timothy *“be thou an example of the believers”* – I Tim. 4:12.
- b. Elders are to be examples – I Pet. 5:3.
- c. Our lives must become the gospel – Phil. 1: 27.
- d. Christ is our examples – I Pet. 2:21; I Cor. 11:1.
- e. Christians are to shine as lights in the world – Phil. 2: 15; Matt. 5:16.

**CONCLUSION**

**Are you approved of God?**