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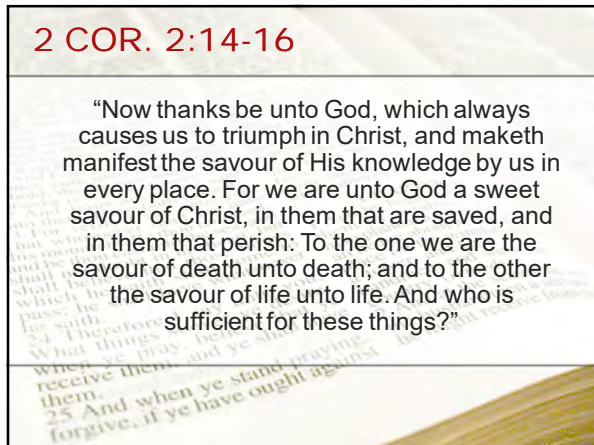
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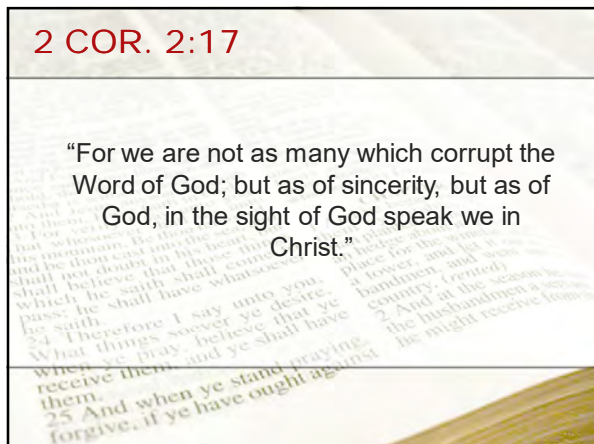
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2 COR. 3:5-6

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who has made us able ministers of the New Testament; Not of the letter; but of the spirit: for the letter killeth; but the spirit giveth life.”

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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

**PRAY**

SGB  
Pastor-Teacher Seminar

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2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

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## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

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## Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

# READ



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## Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

# After prayer and reading



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

Start with the Text  
Stay with the Text  
Say what the Text says  
Stop where Text stops



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

In too many sermons, the  
Text is like the *National  
Anthem at a ballgame!*

Voiced at the beginning, but  
never heard from again.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

Something is going to “**drive**”  
your message...

- Either it will be the Text
- or your own agenda
- or your own idea.
- or simply, just what YOU want  
to say.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

So, good counsel then ...  
Start with the Text  
Stay with the Text  
Say what the Text says  
Stop where Text stops



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

This will keep us from riding  
our favorite "hobby horses"  
every week.  
It will also provide a well  
balanced diet of Sheep  
Food.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

**BUT ...**  
what does that look like?  
How do we go from the  
Passage to the Pulpit?



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

1. Identify what “block” of Scripture you are preaching from.



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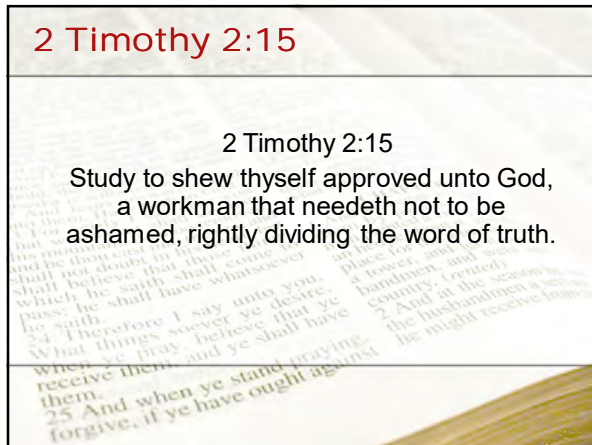
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2 Timothy 2:15

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



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

2. Start by asking questions of the Text.  
(Who/What/When  
Where/Why)



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

3. Print the Text  
This is where I will ...

- Mark up the Text  
(looking for repeated words/strong verbs/difficult portions/connect thoughts)
- Do word studies.
- Cross References
- Start thinking about illustrations



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

4. Re-read the Text.  
Read passage in numerous translations.  
Exercising Caution, but using every tool in the tool shed.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

Then and only then...

5. Read what others have written.  
Start with study Bibles and work your way up to commentaries.

- Use sermonaudio or other tools to listen how others have handled this passage.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

I would highly encourage you  
**NOT**  
to wait till Saturday  
to start this process...  
Start as early in week as  
possible. So you have time to  
meditate on Text.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

6. Determine the primary point of the  
Passage.

- What's the BIG IDEA?
- What is the author seeking to convey  
from this one Text?
- There should be a single CENTRAL  
truth that Holy Spirit is teaching.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

**7. Write a Thesis statement**

- This is a vital and irreplaceable step in  
sermon preparation.
- After determining the BIG IDEA of the  
passage, write a proposition statement.
- Everything you develop should flow  
from that single idea.
- Too many sermons, have no clear  
discernable point.



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**2 Timothy 2:15**

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

In this passage...  
**“Paul exhorts Timothy to give himself fully to learning the Word that he might rightly teach others.”**

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**Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish**

Having written a concise and understandable thesis statement...

8. Determine your TITLE.  
The title should be a simple summation of the thesis.  
(this may sound elementary...but)



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**2 Timothy 2:15**

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

**TITLE – THE PREACHER’S PRIMARY TASK**

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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

9. Start formulating your work into an outline.

- Find the "points of the sermon" from your exegetical work.
- A formal manuscript outline is best. Even if you do not take it into the pulpit.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

**STOP – and ask this question;**  
**SO WHAT???**  
Or  
**NOW WHAT???**



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

In other words, why does this truth matter?

- How does it apply to the hearers?
- What relevance does it have to where I am in life?



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

10. Develop accurate Application.  
- Let the points of the passage determine what application you make.



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

Remember, at the end of the day we are dealing with people right where they are.



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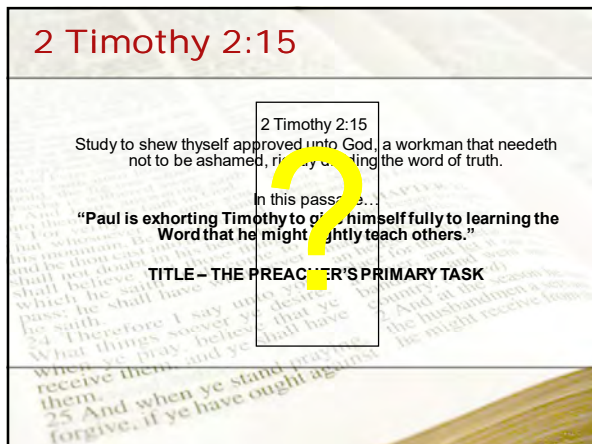
2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

In this passage...

**"Paul is exhorting Timothy to give himself fully to learning the Word that he might rightly teach others."**

**TITLE - THE PREACHER'S PRIMARY TASK**



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

What application would you give from this passage?  
- When you are NOT preaching to a bunch of preachers?



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

Having thought through application,

11. Add illustration  
(I am a firm believer in illustrations)



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

Spurgeon compared illustrations to windows in a home that let in light. The whole house cannot be windows, but it would be dark without them.



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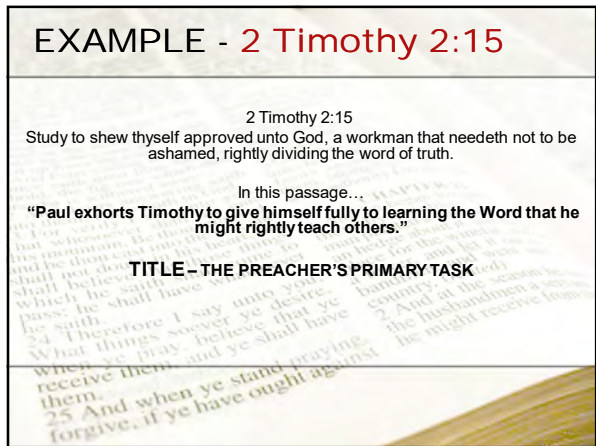
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**EXAMPLE - 2 Timothy 2:15**

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

In this passage...  
**"Paul exhorts Timothy to give himself fully to learning the Word that he might rightly teach others."**

**TITLE - THE PREACHER'S PRIMARY TASK**



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**Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish**

*Illustration ...*

*Every serious athlete must sharpen his/her skills and continually strive to improve .. so too should the man of God.*

*The professional golfer must constantly develop his swing.*


*The basketball player must practice their shot over and over again.*

*The major league pitcher must throw thousands of pitches to stay sharp.*

*How much more important is it, for those who deal in eternal matters - to be sure they are striving to do their very best?!*

*- THE preacher must study, and give himself fully to learning the Word of God so that he might rightly divide the Word of Truth.*

*This takes commitment and determination, but our goal should be to constantly improving.*



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**Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish**

12. Write and rewrite your outline.  
Clean it up.

- Don't be a data dump.

- Do not try and relate every single thing you learned while studying.  
(The church doesn't need to know how to parse every Greek verb in the Text.)



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

You are nearly done and ready to preach...



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

HOWEVER – is it possible that you forgot something? Something Major!



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

**THE GOSPEL ?!?!**

How does this passage relate to the Gospel?

What does this Text teach us about Christ?

    About salvation?

    About God? About Eternity?



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

“The motto of all true servants of God must be, ‘We preach Christ; and him crucified.’ A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home, and never preach again until you have something worth preaching.”

CH Spurgeon



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

“Leave Christ out? O my brethren, better leave the pulpit out altogether. If a man can preach one sermon without mentioning Christ’s name in it, it ought to be his last, certainly the last that any Christian ought to go to hear him preach.”

CH Spurgeon



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

13. Pray  
Review  
Read  
– over both the Text  
and your outline



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Preparing Sermons: Start To Finish

# Preach, Rest, Repeat



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## 2 Timothy 2:15

Study

to shew thyself

approved unto God,

a workman that needeth

not to be ashamed,

rightly dividing

the word of truth.

# The Preacher's Primary TASK

SGE Pastor-Teacher Seminar 2019

Professional golfer must develop swing  
- Bubba player hits shot - 100 mph...  
- P. Hoke - his pitch - 100 mph...  
- NOT pastor's primary task! Sunday is combat!

## 2 Timothy 2:15

\* Paul writing to Timothy  
Elder to younger  
Teacher to student  
master to disciple

Attending birthday parties... Ball games  
or Bar mitzvahs

Only those who teach/preach realize how much work goes on behind the scenes

**Study** - ATA - is work.

- Ready or not - Sunday is combat!  
"be diligent"  
"labour"  
"give diligence"  
DO YOUR BEST!!  
Learn. Be learning  
Keep learning

## to shew thyself

To validate

Acts 1:3 Jesus "showed" himself alive, by many infallible proofs.

present - Rom. 12:1  
Eph 3:27

It may be seen. Known. Evident.  
- put on public display

## approved unto God,

W.E. Vines - wood used of combs & metal  
- cast into fire to test see if it is good.

Put to the test (James 1:12)

- Does God approve of my study? The quality? Amount of time invested? my exegesis?

It matters not if we please men, but displease God.

- This is our Judge!  
- This is who we are ultimately accountable to.  
God called me. Not men.

## a workman that needeth

Do I pass HIS test?

A toiler. ATA - labourer/workers  
Am I a toiler?

Again, denotes idea of labour. ("one day a week")

All one big compound Greek word

But when all is said & done - we will give an account to God Heb 13:17  
ALONE !!

## not to be ashamed

Not a shooting "Air balls"

- Shanking golf ball.  
- Instead can throw a strike.  
Does not hide when called.

only time this word used in NT

- Ashamed of what? OR WHO?

Prepared. Studied up. Ready to give an answer.  
Ready to defend Scripture - preach my sermon.

## rightly dividing

This means here is a WRONG WAY  
This means I am saying what God wanted to be said from this passage.

meat cutter not butcher  
You HAVE to STUDY - to be certain you are "cutting it straight". Rightly dividing. Handling Rightly.

"MAKE A STRAIGHT CUT"  
Paul - tent maker/repairer  
\* Careful Exegesis \*  
Presenting Truth -> clearly/truthfully/exactly

## the word of truth.

It is immeasurably important that we handle this BOOK well... This BODY of Truth.

Promises of God  
Threatenings of God  
Attributes of God

This is what ppl NEED to hear!

There is TRUTH/There are lies

John 17:17  
Historical truth  
Creation truth  
geographical truth  
\* SPIRITUAL TRUTH \* - Eternal Truth  
\* GOSPEL TRUTH \* - unchanging  
When & where? - instant in season - everywhere!