

Wednesday Word

Setting the Standard

February 21, 2024

2 Timothy 2:15- “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,^[a] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

When I was growing up as a young boy, I had a fascination with the Swiss army pocketknife. I loved how it had so many different features. It had a blade, a file, a toothpick, scissors, a magnifying glass, a chisel and so much more. I dreamed of getting my own when my dad said it was ok.

As a young boy I participated in the Royal Rangers. This was a faith-based boy scout program that focused on all the great outdoor adventures and survival skill equipping but prioritized our spiritual development and discipleship through God’s Word. We had camp outs, learned knot tying and even went through knife handlers training. I couldn’t wait for the training because once I was certified to own a knife, my dad would let me get one. I had never held a real Swiss army knife in my life and was very excited to not only hold one, but to own one.

Not shortly after my 6-week knife safety class began, I was with my mom at some friend’s house helping with a garage sale. While carrying boxes out of their garage I came across a nice, red, Swiss army knife sitting on the shelf. I couldn’t help myself and I opened it immediately. I couldn’t believe I had in my hand an authentic Swiss Army knife. My joy was short lived when I opened the blade, not realizing how sharp it was, I sliced my right thumb clean open. Blood began to pour everywhere. In my panic, I somehow ended up slicing my other thumb as well. Now both my thumbs were bleeding profusely. A pool of blood began on the garage floor, and I had to act fast. I ran out to my mom who immediately freaked out, grabbed a towel, and cleaned me up. Fortunately, the cuts were only skin deep and not stitches or a doctor’s visit was necessary. I did, however, get a nice lecture about being responsible or something along those lines.

I can’t help but think about that day being a young and curious boy and compare my mistake that day to some of the mistakes I make today in my

spiritual walk especially my handling of God's Word. We live in the most biblically illiterate generation since the printing press, and we have more biblical study resources than anyone before us. The internet has provided so much material we should all be biblical scholars-however, just the opposite is the case.

We are living in a day and age where the church must be vigilant and desperate for biblical truth. We must know what the Word of God says-not what we think it says. If we don't know how to rightly divide and handle God's Word, we could do spiritual damage to ourselves and to others.

David said: "How does a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word." (Paraphrase) How can we live according to His Word if we don't know what His Word says? How can we lead ourselves or others into God's Truth if we don't know that very truth?

Let's commit today to being people of His Word. Let's guard ourselves with truth and fight the spiritual fight with the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We have all the resources; we just need to purpose in our heart to the disciplines of study and commitment to truth. If we don't, we could end up bleeding on the garage floor needing someone to clean up our mess and fix the damage. If we do, we will see the truth of God invade every area of our lives and we will see the Harvest of Souls so great we won't be able to fit them all in our churches.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric