

APPROVED

2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:4
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No doubt the most popular use of the word "approved" is what appears on the pad screen when we use our debit card or Master card (or so we hope).

But to be "approved by God" - Himself - WOW!

I draw our attention to two scriptures to bear on the word "approved". Both are from the NKJ Bible. 2 Timothy 2:15 and 1 Thessalonians 2:4.

Preachers, teachers, workers in God's service - listen up!

We look first at 2 Timothy 2:15. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God....."

Here is where approval to God begins. It begins with the heart, soul, mind, ministry preparation. If we study, rightly dividing the Word of Truth, and are not ashamed to share with others what we have prepared, we do so feeling confident in Him - in God - Approved to speak in His Name.

May I emphasize again the "yourself". God has given us the tools for the job - Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16: 15 - 20; John 15:16; Acts 1:8. Please take time to read and refresh your memory and challenge with these familiar scriptures.

It's "in our court" - after we have diligently prepared to go in confidence - "approved to God".

Now to 1 Thessalonians 2:4 - "as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel....."

Following our preparation, and presentation of God's Word, the Word of Truth, the gospel, He listens to our heart- the right motive and approach; our mind - the right message and right division of truth, and our deliverance - how we present Jesus, the gospel, His message. And we get God's approval to be entrusted with the gospel.

WOW! God's stamp of approval upon my ministry. This is approval by God. I can hardly fathom it. I'm deeply humbled, and at the same time I have a strong desire to run with this great message to the "whosoever".

It's not necessary to wear it on the back of your T-shirt, but be sure it's written on the inner mantel of your heart -

"APPROVED BY GOD"