

**FWG - Week of 5/17/2020**  
**Krissy Cardwell**

**Song:** Standing on the Promises of Christ My King

<https://youtu.be/SJqXPDkZasE>

**Prayer:** Thank God for providing a way for us to have access to Him through Jesus. Ask Him to take away any hindrance from your life that would keep His truth from your heart. Invite Christ to speak to you today through His Word.

**Text:** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

**Explanation:**

Our culture puts emphasis on the idea that we all have a right to believe whatever we want. To believe something means to accept it as truth. As long as you don't impose on my rights, I won't impose on your rights, and we all will be just fine. But, it really does not work out all that well, does it? We choose to believe in lots of things, or not, depending on the situation. You may or may not believe in climate change. Whatever your stance, you have that right to your own truth, *right?* Well, not always, according to Paul. Imprisoned and awaiting his sentence, Paul is writing to Timothy, his friend and spiritual son. Paul writes to encourage Timothy in his ministry and his Christian life. Urging him to be strong in what he believes, Paul tells Timothy he must use the gifts that God has given to him. He must preach the gospel and teach the truth. But Paul was not referring to just any truth. Not Paul's truth, not Timothy's truth, not the popular truth of the day. He was referring to the one truth, God's truth. It is so easy to let our viewpoints, our knowledge, or our feelings direct our beliefs. I have a good friend who often says, "It's not about how you feel, it's about what is true. But in a world filled with lies, how do we know what is true?"

Paul gives Timothy some direction on this. First, he instructs Timothy to "do his best to present himself to God as one approved." Ephesians 1:13 tells us that "in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth--the gospel of your salvation--you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit." Once we hear the word of truth, and believe that truth, a change takes place. We are no longer just our own. We delight in the things of God, and he delights in us. He no longer looks at us and sees the same person standing before him. He sees the Holy Spirit, he sees His Son. At that moment, you are no longer who you used to be. No longer are you judged by your sins. The labels this world puts on you no longer define you. God looks at you and sees the only one whom He could approve of, His Son. And through the power of the Holy Spirit we are enabled to go before the throne a new creation.

This is important, because only then can the next part of this verse hold true. Only with Jesus are we free to be unashamed. Only with his mercy can we walk in assurance that, as James put it in chapter 2:5, that we are heirs to the kingdom of heaven, even if we don't always feel that way. Remember, it's not about how we feel, but about what is true.

And finally, this leads to a call to action. Paul continues on one step further and issues a challenge for Timothy to "rightly handle the truth." How could any of us hold any claim to the ability to rightly handle anything as important as the word of God? We can't. We surely will mess this up. There is only One qualified to do such a thing, and that is Jesus. However, for us, if we have heard and accepted the truth of Christ, and the

Holy Spirit seals us, then we don't have to rely on our own knowledge, talents, or abilities to spread the gospel of truth. Jesus takes care of that for us. How do we know what is true? We have the Bible. It is our guide. It is trustworthy. It does not cater to citizenship, selfish desire, or popular opinion. That's what Paul desires Timothy to understand. Paul is telling Timothy that he now possesses the knowledge of truth. He wants Timothy to wield that truth like a sword. Pressing forward, slicing away at falsehood, and confidently standing upon the rock of Christ.

**The Point:** Through Jesus God provided a way for us to come before him equipped with the calling He has set before us. We are called to filter every aspect of our lives through this truth, and to share that knowledge with the world.

**Application:** How does this text apply to each member of your family?

**Pre-K & Elementary Age:** Once starting school most kids become weary of report card time. We can all relate with the anxiety of feeling like we won't measure up. What if we don't make the grade? Grab your child's last report card, or if you are brave, one of your old ones and talk about what a report card is for. It's not just for parents to know where your child falls; it is also for the student to be aware of their progress.

Just as report card day comes at school, the Bible teaches us that each of us must answer to God for the kind of life we live. Thankfully, God has given us the Bible to tell us exactly what He expects of us. It teaches us what we should do and what we should not do. Just like we can study to prepare ourselves for the work that we have to do at school, we must study God's word and do our best to follow its teachings. We must do our best to prepare ourselves so that when the opportunity to share God's word with others, we know what we believe and why.

**Middle & High School Students:** At times talking to your kids about their beliefs can be difficult, especially when your beliefs may not line up. Despite the challenge, these discussions are important to have with our teens. Because the truth is, if we don't, someone will. Take some time to speak to read scripture with your youth and discuss the text. Ask them what they believe and why. Ask them the hard questions; see what their worldview is without your telling them the answers. Together filter those beliefs with the words in the Bible. Help your teens learn how to make sure what they are investing in as truth falls in line with the desires of God. We can equip them with the tools to understand that truth is not "what a Bible verse means to me." Rather that truth is found in discovering the author's original intent with knowledge of how this intertwines with the whole message of the Bible, leading to the God-given meaning of the scripture. Just as Paul did for Timothy, let's strive to guide the next generation to be students of the Word who interpret Scripture correctly and submit their lives to Christ.

**Young Adult:** After high school and into college it is easy for us to find ourselves caught up in the fast pace of our day-to-day routines. Having the opportunity to slow down and spend time in scripture can become difficult. Take some time this week to devote some time pouring over the Word of God. Submit your time to Him and ask Him to examine your heart. What is the result of your "workmanship"? How would you describe the way you handle the truth of the Good News? If God brings areas of your life to your attention ask Him to help you grow closer to Him. Ask Him to help you to purposefully devote time studying his Word and to run after the truth that He reveals to us inside.

**Adult:** It is easy to say that we love God and desire to work for Him when life is going well. Our Christian walk is much smoother when the lumps and bumps of this world is

out of our line of sight. It is important to be aware when we do find ourselves in the midst of trials that the God of our hills is also the God of our valleys. How do we react under pressure? How is our attitude toward others when stressful circumstances upon us? Do we run to the world for answers, or is our first reaction to run to the Words of God to provide comfort to our weary hearts? Within the last few weeks we all have felt the strain of COVID-19. This is no “normal” valley that any of us has experienced before. Let’s take this week and prayerfully consider the words of Paul and apply them to how we allow trials to either distance us or draw closer to our God who loves us. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

**Song:** Forever Reign by Hillsong  
[https://youtu.be/\\_O1GleGicNg](https://youtu.be/_O1GleGicNg)

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for being the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We praise you for the provision of your Word and the guidance it gives when we need it most. Remind us daily of your love for us. It is our prayer that you will consume our hearts. We pray that when we go out into the world others will not see or hear us. We want to present ourselves as sons and daughters of God, approved and loved, speaking and sharing your truth in every aspect of our lives. Thank you for being our Good Father. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.