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**Prepared for the Task**

*By Bonnie Lisech,*[*Deeper Roots Publications*](http://www.deeperroots.com/)

When you consider the complexities of life, especially before, during, and after your mission field experience, do you find it difficult to place a priority on the reading and study of Scripture?  Most of us do, but we need to realize what we forfeit when we fail to obey the words of 2 Timothy 2:15.  In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we find the benefits of the *intentional* study of God’s Word.  What are the benefits of study?  What do we forfeit if we neglect study?

There is one absolute necessity for the three phases (pre-field, on-field, and reentry) of a successful short-term trip and for everyday life!

*Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.*  2 Timothy 2:15 NLT

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*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

*God-breathed* means that Scripture is inspired by God.  According to 2 Timothy 3:16, through study, God provides the needed spiritual life skills for effective ministry.  Verses 16-17 is translated in the NLT as, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.”

The word “thoroughly” used in the NIV means “complete” or “adequate” in Greek.  What do we forfeit if you disregard the truth in this verse?  We forfeit being “thoroughly equipped”– completely ready to do the good works God wants us to do.

2 Timothy 2:15 also described the kind of effort that must be made for approval as a “workman.”   (Note:  The KJV translates the first phrase, “Study to shew yourself approved...”  Other translations begin with, “do your best,” “work hard,” or “be diligent.”  “Diligence” in Greek means, “make every effort.”\*New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.) Lack of effort causes disapproval by God, shame, and the mishandling of the Word of God.  Disobedience to this command affects the believer’s spiritual life and the lives of others he influences. Believers must make every effort to do their very best to study, understand, and apply God’s Word in their own lives, so they can share the Word correctly and effectively with others.  Such diligence is approved by God.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:10-12

What do you think you need to do to “correctly explain the word of truth?”

Scripture states that the intentional study of God’s Word

WILL prepare you for your task!

Journal how you plan to apply this needed diligence in your life.  How will you hold yourself accountable?