

## Do Your Best; 2 Timothy 2:15

### I. Good Enough

- A. “Good enough for government work”
  - 1. The idea being don’t do your best, just enough to get by
  - 2. Many times I have heard, “slow down, you’re making us look bad”
- B. “Good enough” is not good enough for God
- C. He wants you to do your best

### II. Approved

- A. Found to be genuine after testing, “tried and true”
- B. To test with the idea of being approved
- C. If we are being diligent to show ourselves approved, then it stands to reason that involves testing
- D. In academics, I never really minded tests
  - 1. I have known many people who knew the information but just couldn’t put it down on a test — some sort of fear or anxiety
  - 2. I always looked forward to tests because it meant that academic part was over and it was on to something new
  - 3. This testing that Paul is talking about is not academics
- E. Job 1:1 (ESV); There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.
  - 1. This verse is a testament to Job
  - 2. What high praise from God — blameless, upright, feared God, turned away from evil
  - 3. Yet, God still put him to the test
  - 4. Job 1:6–8 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”
  - 5. Satan proceeds to take all of Job’s property and even his children
    - a) The oxen and their servants — the Sabeans
    - b) The sheep and their servants — fire from heaven
    - c) The camels and their servants — the Chaldeans
    - d) His children — a great wind
  - 6. Now, remember, Job is a great man in God’s eyes — blameless, upright, God fearing, keeps away from evil
  - 7. Job 1:20–22 (ESV)<sup>20</sup> Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” <sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.
  - 8. God is not done
  - 9. Satan strikes Job with boils (loathsome sores) from the “sole of his feet to the crown of his head.” 2:7
  - 10. Job’s answer in 2:10 — “In all this Job did not sin with his lips”
- F. There are very few of us who have had this level of testing from God
  - 1. I do understand that whatever test we are in the middle of always seems to us to be a very major ordeal
  - 2. But we can get perspective real quick by reading Job or even Abraham’s test to sacrifice his son
- G. God does not test us expecting us to fail, but he tests us expecting to be approved

### III. A Worker

- A. “One who is engaged in work, worker, laborer”<sup>1</sup>
  - B. Here is God’s expectation of us — a laborer in His kingdom!
  - C. We are to be “rich in good works” 1 Timothy 6:18
  - D. Let’s look at how the bible describes Christians
    - 1. Colossians 1:10 (ESV); so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
    - 2. 1 Timothy 5:9–10 (ESV);<sup>9</sup> Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband,<sup>10</sup> and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.
    - 3. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV);<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
    - 4. Titus 3:14 (ESV); And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.
    - 5. Acts 9:36 (ESV); Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.
  - E. God puts a very high value (and priority) on our labor in the Kingdom
- IV. Not Ashamed
- A. There was a time when it was very popular to be a Christian
  - B. The church grew immensely during these times
  - C. Some of you might be surprised to know that this congregation was 800 strong — some of you might remember those times fondly
  - D. The pendulum is rapidly swinging back the other way
  - E. In other parts of the world Christians are dying for their faith
  - F. In our country we are being ridiculed and mocked
    - 1. Joy Behar from “The View” recently said (about Christianity and VP Mike Pence), “It’s one thing to talk to Jesus. It’s another when Jesus talks to you. That’s different, that’s called mental illness.”
    - 2. Bill Nye has said that children ought to be removed from the home of parents that teach creation
    - 3. Many ‘special interest’ groups have arisen in that past 8 years that teach alternative life styles — and if you don’t agree, approve, and condone their life styles you are a bigot, fascist, prejudiced and ought to be ashamed of yourself
    - 4. Paul reminds us that if we are working for God we have “no need to be ashamed”
  - G. Matthew 27:27–31 (ESV);<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.<sup>28</sup> And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,<sup>29</sup> and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”<sup>30</sup> And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.<sup>31</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.
    - 1. Jesus was mercilessly mocked in front of his family, friends, and countrymen
    - 2. He was beaten and scourged, then crucified
    - 3. 1 Peter 2:19–21 (ESV);<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 390.

- H. Christ left us an example of suffering — Paul tells Timothy that all those who desire to live Godly in Christ will suffer (be persecuted) — 2 Timothy 3:12
- I. We have no need to be ashamed of Christ!
- V. Do Your Best
  - A. God wants you to pass the test
  - B. God wants you to be a laborer in the Kingdom
  - C. There is no need to be ashamed