

## *The Approved Ministry*

*“15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)*

This is what Paul had commissioned Timothy to do; to present himself as an approved worker, with clear and profound testimony, and who know how to handle the Word of God. Paul also said to Timothy, *“20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:20-21 KJV)* What Paul was saying is that the person who wants to serve God needs to cleanse himself from the ignoble and the dishonorable things, which are the various sins, so he can be an instrument of noble service in the hand of God to perform an effective ministry, and is prepared, and at God disposal to achieve and do whatever service God wants him to achieve.

The word *“dishonor”* can also have the following meanings: Dishonorable, discredit, shameful, base, or low. Check yourself whether you have anything that can disqualify you from being a noble vessel in the hand of God. Sin, bad attitude, wrong character and style of life can have detrimental effect on those who want to serve God. Laziness, immoralities, worldliness and friendship with worldly people, debauchery, overspending, pride, jealousy, envy, love of money, lack of commitment and selfishness, all can be ignoble things that make you unready and unprepared to serve the master.

The Scriptures furthermore can admonish you how to be a noble vessel in the hand of God to do a healthy ministry.

*1. “11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, 12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. 13 Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean. 14 Then answered Haggai, and said, So is this people, and so is this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer there is unclean.” (Haggai 2:11-14 KJV)* \* What the Scripture here tells you that what you offer to God would be acceptable if you keep yourself clean and holy. \* Whatever good people you meet and intermingle with such will not change you and make you a holy person unless you yourself desire to cleanse yourself by your departure from sin. \* Also put in your mind that whatever good services you offer once you allow sin in your life then your service will have no value at all.

*2. “14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV)* You need to understand also that you need to come out fully and be separated

from whatever belongs to Satan, unrighteousness, darkness and idols, because your body is the temple of God and God is dwelling within you. Therefore you need to break your yoke or friendship with non believers and to come out from them, to separate yourself, and not to touch anything relate to Satan, sin, darkness and idols, and in doing such God shall receive you and you shall be to Him a son or daughter and He shall be a father to you.

*3. “1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1 KJV)* Since you are motivated with all those precious promises then start to cleanse yourself from all filthiness that contaminates your body and your spirit. And it is in your hand and it is your responsibility to purify yourself from the things that contaminate your body (food, alcohol, smoking, friends, boy friend, girl friend, other form of immorality, etc.) and your spirit (TV, pornography, jealousy, lies, etc.)

*4. God spoke to Moses about how the Israelites to make an altar to offer to God their sacrifices and offerings: “24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. 25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.” (Exodus 20:24-25 KJV)* \* God wanted them to build an altar from the earth or use stone without tools being used to prepare it. God did not ask decoration because they should not think that decoration will cover up the poor quality of the sacrifices and the offerings that they would offer to God. As well as they should not think that decoration will cover up the spiritual deterioration and corruption of the people toward God. \* People who were around the Israelites were adorning their idols and temples with beautiful things. God did not want His people to follow this style or use it to cover up their ignoble life style and their lack of commitment. \* High technologies, advance sound systems, projectors and musical instruments cannot replace people holiness toward God. Churches and ministries should wake up and check the life style of their workers and ministers before God’s wrath would flare up.

*5. “26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.” (Exodus 20:26 KJV)* God did not want the nakedness of the Israelites would be exposed. Nakedness initiate immorality, therefore check what you dress with and your life style and remember what Paul said to the Ephesians, *“3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;” (Ephesians 5:3 KJV)*

*6. Regarding the altar we can review more Scriptures and got more insight about the approved ministry: Abraham’s altar that he built to offer his son Isaac to God was an approved ministry. “9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.” (Genesis 22:9-10 KJV)* Abraham exactly offered to God what He asked of him. In the ordained place he bound his son on the wood over the altar to slay him with the knife. That is in resemblance to our church meetings today. On that altar Abraham did not preach but he implemented the command of God; his altar call was to disciple Isaac and disciplining him to abide with God’s call and commands.

*7. In our service and ministry God does not want us to cheat: “18 And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and*

*pitched his tent before the city. 19 And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money. 20 And he erected there an altar, and called it EleloheIsrael.” (Genesis 33:18-20 KJV)* Twenty year prior to that event we read, Jacob committed himself to God, that Bethel will be the house of God and will be his ministry as we read here in the event that God appeared to Jacob, *“10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. 16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. 20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” (Genesis 28:10-22 KJV)* But what we can see here that Jacob changed his commitment and went into another place. God did not approve that ministry and what Jacob did and forced him to leave Shechem when He allowed his daughter to be raped and his two sons Levi and Simeon killed all the men of Shechem and such was of great threat to Jacob and to his family. At such event God came and asked him to leave Shechem and commanded him to go back to Bethel and reminded him about his previous vow that he vowed in Bethel, *“1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. 2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: 3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. 4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. 5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. 6 So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Bethel, he and all the people that were with him. 7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.” (Genesis 35:1-7 KJV)* Jacob suffered for his lack of commitment. **Cheating God and doing your own in serving God will bring suffering and finally you need to repent and turn back to God as Jacob ultimately did.**

**8. God wants you to build a proper altar a prove to your approved Ministry:** Gideon when the Lord called him to serve Him and delivered the Israelites he was doubting God's call and even

he asked God a question, *“15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” (Judges 6:15 KJV)* As we know on the same meeting God cleared the doubts of Gideon and in response to this Gideon built an altar to God, *“24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.” (Judges 6:24 KJV)* Gideon earlier asked God, *“wherewith shall I save Israel?”* But before this question to be answered, ‘Do you think what Gideon built of altar is approved and is satisfactory to God?’

Many people they want to serve God and bring the salvation of God to their families, friends and other people surrounding them. They pray and they offer to God as Gideon. But let us now read what God commissioned Gideon to do: *“25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.” (Judges 6:25-26 KJV)* Sin and idol worship had not yet dealt with and condemned properly, that was why the first altar that Gideon did was not approved of God to bring salvation to others. God on the same night instructed him how to build a proper altar to the Lord, *“throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place,”* very dangerous and critical thing what God asked of Gideon to do. Although Gideon was afraid but he did, and as he obeyed, the Lord aided him, and his father was the first one who supported Him: *“27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. 28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. 29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. 30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. 31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. 32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.” (Judges 6:27-32 KJV)* **God wants you to obey Him and not to compromise with people's sin. Do not be afraid of people but fear God and obey Him. And when you obey Him He will give you a victory. God wants you to confront sin and the sinful tradition of your ancestors and God wants to use you as a noble vessel to establish an approved ministry.**

**9. Restore back and support the approved ministry of God:** Elijah was called by God to combat Baal worship in Israel. Seven thousand righteous people were preserved by God and Elijah was called to combat. On the mountain of Carmel Elijah publicly faced all the prophets of Baal, and the Lord was truly with him and supported him and gave him the upper hand of approval. *“30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. 31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: 32 And with the stones he built an altar*

*in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. 33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. 34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. 35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. 36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. 40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.” (1 Kings 18:30-40 KJV) There is so much false teaching, idol worship, compromises, wrong principles, greed and corruption inside the churches and ministries and the Lord wants you to be like Elijah to combat and to restore back the approved ministry of God that goes along His Word and His will.*

*My Dear and Beloved: “2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV) I pray that you are one of the faithful men that as God calls you, you will respond to the call of God, purify yourself and come out from sin, compromises and fear of men and be willing to stand firm and repair the altar of God and do the approved ministry that will make you qualified to teach others.*

*\* It is so clear from the message that we can work with God to bring His revival and reformation in our lives, in the life of His church, and in the life of the people around us. \* We are called to bring a difference, and God is looking on us and on what decisions we would be taking that will bring changes and make the difference that God is waiting to see. \* It is a high time for you to stand with God, to come out from sins, compromises and the fear of man and start to serve Him as we described in this message.*

*My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly my failures and what I am not doing well towards you, and my obvious sins. Lord thank you for all the teaching from the various Scriptures and all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.*

*Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your fear of man, and your corruptions and compromises. Confess and renounce your old religion and your old traditions and practices. Confess and renounce your idol worship and your immoralities. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and neither the will nor the plan of God. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your greed and your love for material things. Confess and renounce the rest of your sins and the rest of the work of the flesh in your life. Confess and renounce being yoked with non believers, and with the Media, News and games. Confess your lack of reading God’s Word and your lack of prayers. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins*

*Lord I commit myself to put my trust fully on you, to remove idols, abominations and wrong practices in my life and in the life of the people who are around me and those who are under my care. Lord I commit myself to put out the following people out of my life \_\_\_\_\_ because of their corruption, idols and their endeavor to divert me from doing your will. Lord give me courage and boldness to do that and protect me from evil doers. Lord bring faithful people of yours to help me to walk with you in a Godly way, and to help me in the ministry that you entrusted to us, we your church, the Church of God. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to go on and serve you doing the very thing that you want me to do. Lord use me to bring revival and transformation into the life of your church. Lord lead me to evangelize to new people and to bring them into your presence.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who heard the message and who are willing to obey you, Lord strengthen them, protect them and provide all their needs, and fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to go on and serve you doing the ministry that you want them to do. Lord protect them and preserve them and set them good example to others to follow you.*

*Lord enable us as a church to stand firm against all the forms of idol worship, compromises, corruption, traditional practices, and the worldliness, and enable us to do the approved ministry that you expect from us to achieve. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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