**“Present Yourself Approved To God”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 21st, 2024

Text: John 9:24-34 Scripture Reading: II Timothy 2:14-15

# Intro

1. II Timothy 2:14-15
   1. “Be diligent (KJV: “study”) to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” (2:15)
2. Many people do not “accurately handle the word of truth.” (Discern truth from error)
   1. Two examples from John 9 to look at: Those who profess to know how to handle the word of truth accurately (Pharisees), and one who does it (Healed blind man)!
3. *John 9:1-41*: Account of the healing of a man born blind pits an uneducated man against the Pharisees, the religious leaders of their day (teachers of the Law):
   1. *John 9:1-7:* Jesus heals the man born blind: He spat on the ground, made clay and anointed the man’s eyes. He told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. He obediently does and his sight is restored.
   2. *John 9:8-12:* His neighbors began asking him how he came about seeing. He told them what happened and that he did not know where Jesus went.
   3. *John 9:13-17:* The man is brought before the Pharisees (teachers of the Law) and questioned the first time. They don’t believe him either and say it is impossible because Jesus is a sinner. The man claims he thinks Christ is a prophet.
   4. *John 9:18-23:* His parents are called in and questioned. They confirm it’s their son who was born blind but tell them to ask him since he is of age. (They were afraid of the Pharisees for they threatened to put anyone who confessed Jesus out of the synagogue)
   5. John 9:24-34: The second interrogation of the man by the Pharisees. They blindly stick to their biases, while he uses his knowledge of the Scriptures to come to the only accurate conclusion: Jesus is from God, and for that he is cast out of the synagogue!
4. For saints to be “approved to God” we must “accurately handle the word of truth!”
5. **Improperly Handling God’s Word**
6. John 9:16, 24: They dismissed the miracle stating Jesus was not from God because He was a sinner, and they mentioned He did not keep the Sabbath.
   1. They taught that healing could only be done on the Sabbath if it was life-threatening.
   2. *Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-11:* Jesus healed on the Sabbath and answered their questions concerning such and declared, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:3-8 *[Numbers 28:9-10]).* They ignored His miracles and sought to kill Him!
      1. He taught them from *I Samuel 21:6* about David and his men using the showbread from the Tabernacle to eat and survive.
      2. He then proceeded to heal a man with a shriveled hand *(Matthew 12:9-13).*
7. John 9:15, 20, 27-29: Despite the miracle, they said they didn’t know where Jesus was from!
   1. The Pharisees (Teachers of the Law) were confronted by the truth of this miracle three times and they “did not listen.” They gave as excuse, “we are disciples of Moses.”
   2. As “Disciples of Moses” they should have known what Moses taught about Jesus Christ:
      1. Deuteronomy 18:15: Moses said God would raise up a prophet like him. *(*Acts 3:22*, 12-26; Matthew 17:5: Fulfilled in Jesus)*
      2. *John 1:45:* Philip declared, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
      3. John 5:45-47: Jesus told them Moses himself would accuse them for not believing in the One he foretold about!
      4. *John 6:14:* The 5,000 after being fed declared, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”
      5. John 7:26, 40-42: The people at the temple said, “This certainly is the Prophet” and said of Him “This is the Christ (Anointed One of God, Messiah).”
         1. “The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they?” *(7:26)*
8. John 9:34: The Pharisees taught incorrectly on the matter of one being born in sin.
   1. “You were born entirely in sins.”
      1. They taught: Affliction was the direct result of sin.
      2. The greater the affliction was the blacker the sin had been.
      3. Afflicted people to be avoided because they are the objects of God’s wrath.
   2. This notion was thought by Job’s friends, and disproved – Book of Job *(42:7-9)*
   3. Ezekiel 18:4, 20: God says, “The soul that sins will die.” Sons will not be punished for the sins of the father and vice versa.
   4. Jesus’ disciples asked about who sinned, the man born blind or his parents? – John 9:1-3
      1. Jesus said the man’s blindness was neither a result from his or his parent’s sins, but for an opportunity to glorify God.
9. Those who should have known and taught the truth, instead were presented as ***not*** approved to God because they improperly handled “the word of truth!”
10. **Properly Handling God’s Word**
11. John 9:30: “Here is an amazing thing!”
    1. In response to their assertion that they didn’t know where Jesus was from, the healed man told them that by the Scriptures one can know He was from God
12. John 9:31: “We know that God does not hear sinners”
    1. Isaiah 59:1-2: Isaiah in his time made this very clear *(I Peter 3:10-12).*
    2. The healed man said he didn’t know if the One who healed him was a sinner or not but knew he was once blind but now can see (9:25).
13. John 9:32: “Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.” *(Not recorded in O.T.)*
    1. *Isaiah 35:4-6:* Isaiah pointed to a time when this would happen.
    2. Matthew 11:1-5: John the Baptist’s disciples came to ask Jesus if He was the One they were waiting for and Jesus quoted from *Isaiah 35:4-6* saying, “The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the leper is cleansed, the dead are made alive.”
14. John 9:33: “If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”
    1. He logically and accurately concludes that Jesus could not be a sinner!
    2. *John 20:30-31:* John stated the reason for his writing the gospel is for people to read of the miracles and believe in the Son of God.
    3. This man didn’t have John’s gospel, but saw the miracle and believed – 9:27
15. The word of God can give confidence to boldly state the truth even if it is unpopular and carries consequences with the hearers! (John 9:34: “They put him out”)
16. This man presented himself to a hostile crowd, “approved to God” by “accurately handling the word of truth!”

**Conclusion**

1. This man marveled at the “learned” religious leaders of his day being blinded by their traditions and biases when the truth faced them: “Here is an amazing thing!” (John 9:30).
2. The Pharisees could see but were blinded by pride. The fulfillment of the Scriptures they professed to know was standing there and they denied Him! (John 9:40-41)
   1. ***We can deny Jesus too!*** *(Matthew 10:33)* **Are you blinded by pride?**
3. The man was born blind but was able to see. He understood the Scriptures. (John 9:35-39)
   1. ***We can understand too!*** *(Ephesians 3:4; II Timothy 2:15)* **Do you study so that you may see?**
4. “Be diligent (“Study”) to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” *(II Timothy 2:15)*
5. If not a Christian, will you repent and be baptized and no longer be blind?
6. If a Christian who has erred, repent and come back to God!
7. Whatever your requests may be, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!