

## The Approved Ministry

***“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2Timothy 2:15)***

This 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 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” (2Timothy 2:20-21)*** What Paul was saying is that the person who want to serve God need to cleanse himself from the ignoble things 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 ignoble can have the following meanings: ‘Dishonourable, shameful, base, low, and immoral.’ 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, 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 This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Ask the priests what the law says: 12 If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?’ ” The priests answered, “No.” 13 Then Haggai said, “If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?” “Yes,” the priests replied, “it becomes defiled.” 14 Then Haggai said, “ ‘So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,’ declares the LORD. ‘Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.’” (Haggai 2:11-14)*** What the scripture here tells you that what you offer to God would be acceptable if you keep yourself clean and holy.

***2- “14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial ? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” 17 “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2Corinthians 6:14-18)***

***3- “Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” (2Corinthians 7:1)*** So it is in your hand to purify yourself from the things that contaminate your body (food, alcohol, smoking, friends, boy friend and girl friend, other form of immorality, etc.) and your spirit (TV, pornography, jealousy, lies, etc.)

***4- God spoke to Moses about how the Israelites who make an altar when they want to offer to God their sacrifices and offerings: “24 ” ‘Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. 25 If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.’” (Exodus 20:24-25)*** 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 sacrifices and offering 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 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. In ***Exodus 20:26*** The Lord says, ***“And do not go up to my altar on steps, lest your nakedness be exposed on it.”*** God did not want the nakedness of the Israelites would be exposed. One of the ignoble word meanings is immoral, and nakedness is good initiator of immorality. Check what you dress with and your life style and remember what Paul said to the Ephesians, ***“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.” (Ephesians 5:3)***

***5- Regarding the altar we can review more Scriptures and got more insight about the approved ministry:*** Abraham altar that he built to offer his son Isaac to God was an approved ministry. ***“9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.” (Genesis 22:9-10)*** 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.

***6- In our service and ministry God does not want us to cheat: “18 After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. 19 For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. 20 There he set up an altar and called it El Elohe Israel.” (Genesis 33:18-20)*** Twenty year prior to that event we read, Jacob commit himself to God, that Bethel will be the house of God and

will be his ministry (*Read Genesis 28:10-22*). But what we can see here that Jacob alter his commitment and went into another place. God did not approve that ministry and what Jacob did (*Read Genesis 34-35:7 in your own bible*) 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.

**7- God wants you to build a proper altar (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 *"But Lord, " Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."* (Judges 6:15) 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 *So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."* (Judges 6:24) Gideon earlier asked God, "how can 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. Let us now read what God commissioned Gideon to do: "25 *That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. 26 Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."* (Judges 6:25-26) Sin and idol worship had not yet dealt with and condemned properly, that is 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 proper altar to the Lord, "Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height." 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 (Read in your bible *Judges 6:27-32*) God want you to obey Him and not 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 want to use you as a noble vessel to establish an approved ministry.

**8- 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 false prophets and the false teachers, and the Lord was truly with Him and supported Him and gave him the upper hand of approval. "30 *Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. 31 Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel."* 32 *With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it*

*large enough to hold two seahs of seed."* (1Kings 18:30-32) There is so much false teaching, idol worship, compromises, wrong principles, greed and corruption inside the churches and ministries and the Lord want you to be like Elijah to combat and to restore back the approved ministry of God that goes along His word and will.

**My Dear and Beloved:** "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." (2Timothy 2:2) I pray that you are one of the reliable men who are qualified to teach others.

**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 I pray for my brethren who read this word of yours, will put them into practice, and will be transformed to be the kind of workers and ministers whom you will use to serve you and be part of your approved ministry as your word taught us. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

# Jesus christ



## The Bread Of Life

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