

“The Meaning of AWANA”

2 Tim 2:15

I'm thankful for the AWANA ministry. Some of you are not aware of the meaning of the name. The letters in AWANA stand for “Approved workmen are not ashamed.” AWANA gets its name from 2 Tim 2:15, “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.”

According to this verse, one day we are going to stand before God. One of 2 things is going to happen. We are either going to be approved by God, or we will be ashamed before God.

We need to know how we can be approved by God. What are some of the things God will be looking for when He judges us? I want to point out 3 things found in this verse. The first thing God looks at is:

1. Your Personal Life. 15 says, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved.” God will examine your personal conduct. He cannot approve your lifestyle if you are not living for Him.

There is another area God will examine. Not only will He look at your personal life, He will also examine:

2. Your Christian Service. He will examine what you have done for Him. The verse goes on to say, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed.” He is going to look at your work. Were you faithful in service? Were you active in some ministry? You are to work just as hard in your spiritual service as you do in your daily job.

And you are to work in such a way that when God judges your work – you won't be afraid of what He might find. You have confidence because you know you have done your best.

There is a 3rd area God will examine when you stand before Him. He will look at your personal life (your Christian service). Finally, God will examine:

3. Your Knowledge of God's Word. 15 says, “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.” You are to be accurate in your understanding of God's Word. And, if you are a teacher, like Timothy was, you must be accurate in what you teach to others.

You are not to distort God's Word, and you are not to leave out any parts of God's Word. You are to teach the whole counsel of God.

I'm thankful that the AWANA ministry is teaching our young people to be faithful in memorizing and applying God's Word to their lives.