

# The Love God W.A.Y. With All Your Resolve

Reading: [James 1:22-25](#)

Text: [Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)

Introduction:

Generally through the years we have taken the New Year as a time to re-begin those things which we know we need to do. They've been called "New Year's resolutions" as long as I can remember. Some have made New Year's commitments and failed so many times they have given up. So instead of asking to you make a New Year's resolutions which is generally defined as a promise to do something, I'm asking you to be resolved to keep a promise you've already made.

Those of you who have been married and stayed married for many years understand this as commitment to what you've promised the one you love. You are resolved to stay together. You are determined to let nothing come between you. You plan to endure whatever may challenge your relationship in the future.

In the same way, with one last plea from last year's theme, I am asking each of us to be resolved to love the Lord our God with all your heart, mind and soul. Or reworded, "Love God with all your resolve!"

Let's look at [2 Timothy 2:15](#) as the basis for today's message to help us understand this:

[2 Timothy 2:15](#) **Do your best to** present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- KJV translated it, "Study," but it's better translated "Be diligent" or "Give Diligence to"
- "Do your best" could be just as easily translated, "Be resolved" to present yourself to God.
- Conveniently enough, this is described in 3 ways:

## 1. Do Your Best To Present Yourself To God: As One Approved:

- What Does The Loyal Servant Want to Hear?

[Matthew 25:21](#) 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

- When I was a child, I remember the times that I was happiest and saddest. It was when I pleased my earthly father or made him upset. When he said something good about me I was happiest. When he was displeased with me I was saddest.
- Do we look to God our father in this way? That whatever makes HIM pleased is what makes us happiest. I imagine that's what Jesus felt when He heard those words from Heaven, "This is MY beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." [Matthew 3:17](#)

[2 Peter 3:14](#) Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found **by him** without spot or blemish, and at peace.

- When Jesus comes again, will I be "Without spot or blemish?" Will I look good to God?
- When Jesus comes again, will I be "At Peace" Will I have confidence in how I look?

[Ephesians 3:12](#) in (Christ) we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith **in him**.

- Thank God we don't have to have confidence in ourselves!
- Thank God, He has provided the way we can have confidence: "IN CHRIST!"

## 2. As A Worker Who Has No Need To Be Ashamed

- In that story of the Talents, was there anyone without need to be ashamed?
  - How about the 5 Talent servant? He was able to confidently approach the Master
  - How about the 2 Talent servant? He also had confidence, yet he did not earn as much interest! Does this story tell us that we need to "earn" our salvation? Absolutely not, but it does tell us we need to do our jobs!
  - They heard those good words because they were workers who had no need to be ashamed
  - Because he made us righteous in spite of our sin, we are a new creation **for good works!**

[Ephesians 2:8-10](#) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- We should be ashamed if we do not do what we are supposed to do! Heaven forbid that we have no conscience. That guy with the one talent knew better than to do what he did, yet he did no better than he did! THAT is why he failed.

[James 4:17](#) So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

- Are we doing our best, are we resolved to be a worker who has no need to be ashamed?

## 3. As One Who Rightly Handles The Word Of Truth

- We could get into hermeneutics based on this phrase, that is, How do you study the bible? Many people think it cannot be understood and so they don't even try! That is untrue! God has not given us a task beyond our ability when he made sure the scripture was written.
- The ONE thing above all that "rightly handling the word" means is this: "**Do it!**"
  - We all remember:

[Romans 10:17](#) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- Yet, we cannot forget this either:

[James 1:22-25](#) But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a **doer** who acts, he will be **blessed** in his doing.

- It doesn't matter if we have all understanding if we do nothing about it! The one who is diligent to love God with all his resolve is the one who makes every effort to DO God's will!

- Rightly handling the word of truth means that we are resolved to:

[Matthew 6:33](#) seek **first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness

- It is not based on what we hear from others, not even preachers, but from God!
- If we love God with all our resolve, we will let nothing get in the way of His approval. We will not let anything cause us to be ashamed of our efforts to please Him. We will do everything we can to understand Him and obey Him!
- Our resolve will not be for one day, nor even one year, but for the rest of our lives or until Jesus comes again. We will be "**resolved no longer to linger charmed by the world delights, things that are higher, things that are nobler, these have allured our sight!**"