

Standards

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.—II Timothy 2: 15

Last month I spent several days on a standard setting committee for Michigan Test of Teacher Certification: Learning Disabilities. In education we spend a great amount of effort to develop standards. Once those standards are set, it guides what we teach.

The Bible sets the standards for our behavior as a Christian. It is the only authority on what we believe, practice, and teach. If we decide to ignore God's rules and follow what we think is best, or the standards that the world sets, we are not approved of God.

The person that listens to shallow sermons and mistaken preaching will be a shallow saint. Misguided doctrine causes people to think wrong and follow with misbehavior. II Timothy 4:3 tells us, *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"*

Following good doctrine by studying and knowing the word of God, listening to sermons that rightly teach the standards set by God will lead to spiritual growth and God's approval.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;--II Timothy 3:16