

- 2 Timothy Chapter 2 Verse 15 says: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” Let me introduce to you a worker of the word of truth. His name is Charles Haddon Spurgeon from England, who lived from 1834 to 1892. Let us learn from him what it means to present ourselves to God!
- Spurgeon truly was God’s worker. He made known the words of truths to millions of people and he continues to do so even today. God is pleased with your decision of life to obey 2 Timothy 2:15 and he will use it for his eternal redemptive history.
- I pray that each one of you may follow into Spurgeon’s footsteps by learning from his excellent attitude towards God.

PART 1) DO YOUR BEST TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD

- Spurgeon received spiritual education from his grandfather when he was only 1 year old. In his teenager years, he received academic and spiritual education from his mother. When he was 10 years old, he had Bible study with Richard Knill. At the age of 14, he got to learn the true meaning of baptism from another spiritual teacher at St. Augustine’s College in Maidstone. He moved to the Newmarket Academy. In this school, he was the best student and he also became an assistant teacher.
- To sum up, Spurgeon was an excellent student, but he never stopped to pursue his Bible studies autodidactically, intensively und with much diligence. Despite all professional duties, his faith and zeal for Jesus Christ grew constantly. The more busier he was with his studies, the more time and heart he invested in the study of God’s word.
- It is very good that we try to be the best in school and university to present ourselves to our teachers and professors. How much more important and necessary it is to devote all our heart to the study of God’s word through early morning prayer, testimony writing, personal Bible study and 1:1 Bible study with the young people on campus.
- In addition, Spurgeon did his best to present himself to God even though he had so many opportunities to glorify himself. He refused any theological education to avoid human recognition. He rather wanted to stay with his people and with his Bible students. He preferred to continue his preaching than to get human attention. God helped him through his word on Jeremiah 45:5: „Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them." Spurgeon said: „I would rather be poor in His service than be rich in my own. I already have everything my heart desires, God gives me even more than I desire.“ He did not seek the spotlight, fame and popularity. He did not accept all the promising offers from America with huge amounts for his lectures, because he did not look for money. God was very pleased with him, and that was totally enough for Spurgeon. Even in our life as Christians, it is easy that we present ourselves to the people in church. Why would we do that? It is because we are looking for people’s respect. But what is decisive is our attitude towards God alone. God was very pleased with a young man who came to Daily Bread with absolute priority although nobody could see him when he spent a year in America! God is pleased with one freshman who lives as a royal

priest in RU engineering school! Let's do our best not in front of people, but before God, by living as excellent Bible teachers.

PART 2) BE AN APPROVED WORKER WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED

- On January 6, 1850, he received Isaiah 45:22: „TURN to me and be saved, ALL you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.“ Spurgeon was converted and baptized. He was born again. He had a new life and he counted himself alive to God in Christ Jesus. In his old life, he was ashamed of the gospel and alive to sin. In his new life, however, he was dead to sin and not ashamed of the gospel anymore. He started to share tracts on the streets, to children and adults in church. Furthermore, he delivered the gospel to unsaved sinners. He was not ashamed of telling the truth to numerous lost souls. I found one of his quotes: *„I believe that a preacher, who can preach without addressing his sermon to sinners, doesn't know anything about preaching.“* His messages were not just full of friendly words, but he used strong words with broken shepherd heart to lead the sinners to repentance. What happened when Spurgeon was not ashamed of the word of truth, but worked hard for preaching the word of truth? The small village church in Waterbeach grew from 40 to 450 attendants. People who suffered from drunkenness and obscenity, were changed into sources of blessing. Let's learn from Spurgeon not to be passive and silent against the false teachers, but be courageous and confident to speak up the word of truth! May God fill 6 men of God in New Jersey and the Gideon-Team in Bonn with the Holy Spirit to speak the word of truth with great boldness.

PART 3) CORRECTLY HANDLE THE WORD OF TRUTH

- When God allowed me to deliver my first message when I was in my 20's, I learned that message preparation is a hard struggle with the word of God. Spurgeon delivered messages 3 times on Sundays and 5 times during the week. He even preached more than 600 times before he turned 20. This shows that he struggled day and night to correctly handle the word of truth.
- God used him as his messenger in London. In London, there were notorious slums with more than 3000 children living on begging and 100,000 residents were illiterate. Alcoholism proliferated among these poorest of the poor. Criminality increased steadily and became ever threatening. Sunday worship services were empty. The spiritual conditions and church conditions were desolate. Having said that, Spurgeon did not remain helpless against the spirit of the time in London, but he stood firm and preached the word with enthusiasm and great zeal for God.
- His messages were not just ordinary messages. When he preached, he did it with passion by using his mouth, eyes, hands, feet, his whole body. God's spirit was upon him. And as every true disciple of Jesus, he experienced slander and public mockery, sometimes of the worst kind. What's more, he experienced imminent physical harm. Every ordinary man wants to rest when he experiences physical pain. Spurgeon, however, stood firm. His faith was greater than his physical pain. That is why he served the ministry as a messenger to the point of death.

- Spurgeon did not need more time or better conditions, he only needed the word of God. When he struggled with the word of God, he was able to deliver the message of God to more than 20,000 people without modern amplifiers or PA systems.
- When Spurgeon correctly handled the word of truth, God preciousy used him as a blessing and fruitful disciple-maker. In his Pastors College, he used to train gospel workers among many young people. He had common life with them and taught them to correctly handle the word of truth. God's work through one man of God, Spurgeon, was amazing. By the time of his death in 1892, the college had trained more than 800 men, more than 600 of them were serving in Baptist denominations as pastors. Over half of the new churches founded in his denomination 1865-1877, were pastored by men trained by Spurgeon at the college.
- Spurgeon did his best in preparing Gospel messages, publishing the truth in books and tracts, training pastors, preachers, church leaders, and needy people. In this way, God made him a blessing for a whole city, a whole country, entire Europe, to America, to Australia and to the ends of the earth. May God send out 100,000 missionaries as messengers and disciple-makers like Spurgeon to all countries by 2041.
- The message of Jesus was transported through him in all five continents, without radio, broadcaster or communication satellite. With his loud voice, he could reach 30,000 people in a congregation. Through the printed word, he reached millions of people in many countries.
- Now let me summarize Spurgeon's life as a worker of the word of truth.
- First, Spurgeon did his best to present himself to God. Despite all his professional duties, he set the word of God as first priority. He did not look for human recognition but glorified God alone by devoting all his heart, all his mind, and all his soul to the study of God's word.
- Second, Spurgeon was an approved worker who was not ashamed. After having received Jesus as his personal savior, Spurgeon was not ashamed of the gospel anymore, but he led numerous people to repentance through his messages. Our words cannot heal the souls of sinners, but the words of truth can save and change a person into a vast army.
- Third, Spurgeon correctly handled the word of truth. He meditated on the word of God day and night and always remembered God's calling grace as God's servant and messenger. So he was able to preach 3 times on Sundays, 5 times a week and more than 600 times before he turned 20. Despite slanders and public mockery, despite diseases and physical pain, he stood firm, even to the point of death. His messages were not just ordinary and weekly messages. He gave all his heart to deliver God's messages, using his whole body. Furthermore, he devoted to disciple-making ministry through the Pastors College by training many young men as workers of the word of truth.
- So what have I learned? First of all, I thank God for my parents, who have only one but very clear prayer topic for me: that I may live as God's servant. I thank God for my shepherd who trains me as a worker of the word of truth. Thanks be to my Lord who is

disciplining me as a servant of His word. Spurgeon's 8 sermons a week encourage me to preach the gospel with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength and with shepherd heart to lead many lost souls to repentance, back to God.

- God has raised you, the Next Generation, as servants of his word through the GLEF. Do your best to study God's word through Daily Bread, IBS, Testimony writing and sharing, and 1:1-BS. There is no other way of blessing and gaining spiritual authority. In all circumstances, also despite your professional duties, you may work hard to prepare the spiritual revival with the word of truth. May God equip you through messenger training and shepherd life for raising 7000 disciples and forming 10,000 1:1 BS teams.
- May God use You as servants of God like Spurgeon, that means, as Bible Teachers, Disciple Makers, Shepherds, Messengers and Messenger Trainers, and Servants of His Word!
- Do your best to present yourselves to God by redeeming the young people on campus from the power of sin and making them a vast army!
- Let me pray: „Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” Dear Father, thank you for encouraging us through Spurgeon's life of faith to do our best to present ourselves to you as servants of your word. Give us strong passion for your word that we may devote ourselves to Bible study and live as Bible teachers, messengers, messenger trainers, and disciple makers like Spurgeon for the spiritual revival in our nation. I pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.