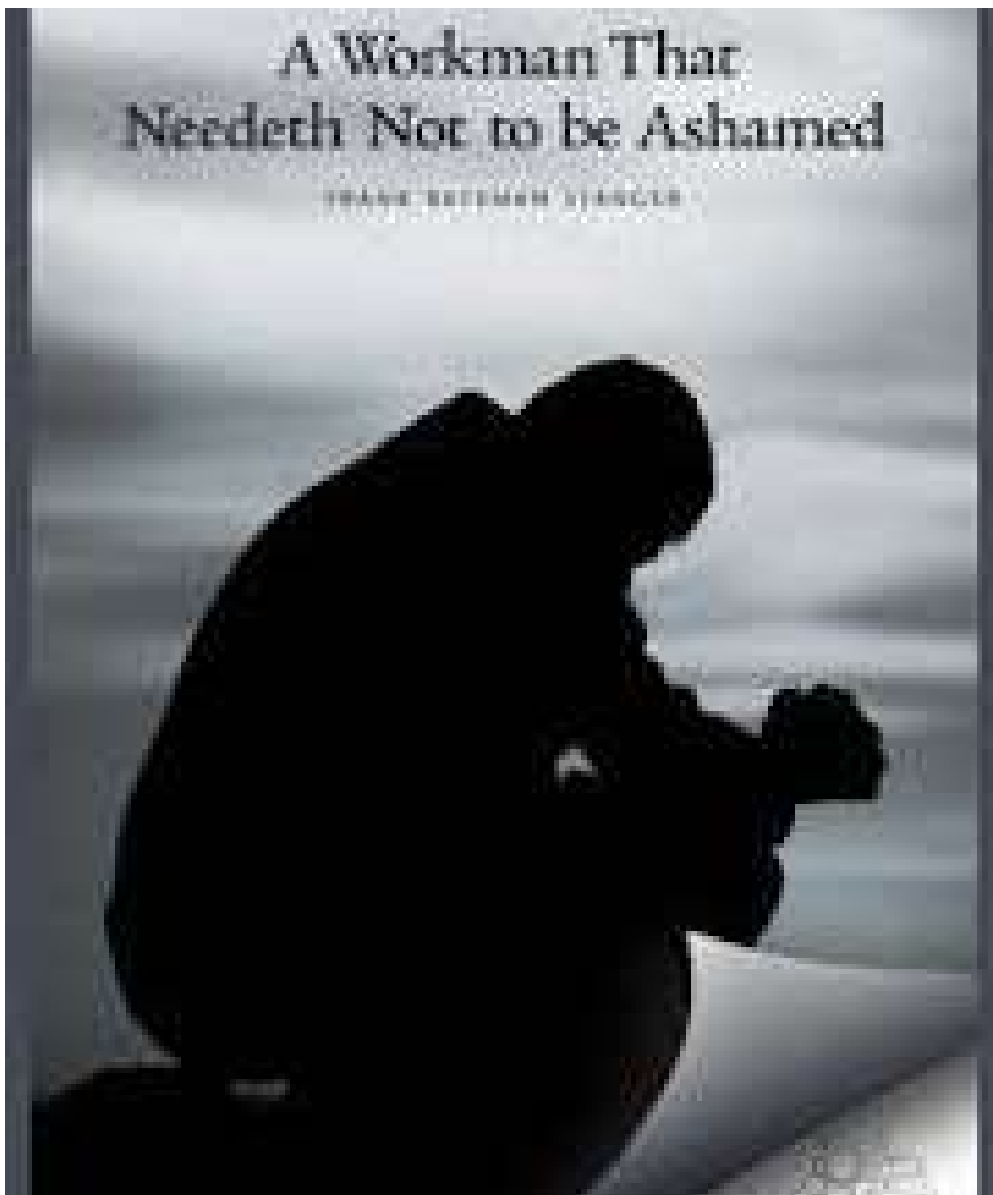


JESUS CORNER



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MONTH'S ISSUE:

A WORKMAN (2 TIMOTHY 2:15)

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"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

In this edition, we reflect on what it truly means to be a workman for God—one who is always ready, rightly aligned, and never disqualified. As believers, our lives must reflect the One we represent, ensuring that our actions, responses, and attitudes never bring shame to the message we carry. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through these words, and may your heart be stirred to live as an approved workman—always fit for the Master's use.

WHO IS A WORKMAN?

In secular terms, a workman is any person hired to do skilled or unskilled work for wages—bound by terms and conditions, accountable, and assessed.

In the kingdom, a workman is one employed by God to represent Him on earth—whether as a preacher, intercessor, encourager, servant leader, or witness. And just like in the secular world, your conduct matters. You must live and act in a way that ensures you can always represent your employer (Jesus) without shame.

In both the secular and spiritual realms, a workman is not without responsibility, boundaries, or expectations. In the workplace, employees are hired under clear terms and conditions—outlined in job descriptions, contracts, and policies. These documents detail the standards of behaviour, performance expectations, and consequences for misconduct. Regular assessments and probation periods ensure that the individual is fit for the role they were hired to do. If they violate these terms, they risk warnings, suspension, or even termination.

Likewise, in the kingdom of God, a workman is called and appointed under divine terms and conditions—clearly laid out in Scripture. You're not just saved to sit—you're saved to serve. Every believer, regardless of title or platform, has a role to play. Whether you are praying behind the scenes, sharing words of encouragement, mentoring others, or simply living out your faith with integrity, you are God's representative. And just like in the secular world, your spiritual assignment comes with conditions. God expects obedience, holiness, humility, love, and integrity. You are expected to walk in the Spirit, bear fruit, and avoid anything that would disqualify you or bring shame to the name of Jesus (see Titus 2:7-8, 1 Thessalonians 2:4).

The tragedy is that many want to work for God but ignore the conditions of employment. They want the title—"I'm a child of God," "I'm called," "I'm anointed"—but forget the lifestyle that backs it up. But heaven's assignment cannot be fulfilled by a careless vessel. You are bound by kingdom principles. You must constantly examine yourself to ensure you are not just working, but working acceptably, as one approved (2 Corinthians 13:5, Romans 12:1). Just as no earthly employer tolerates perpetual misconduct, neither does God—because His name is on the line through you. Your life must always reflect the one you represent—Jesus Christ—without shame.





THE KIND OF WORKMAN GOD EXPECTS

1. A Workman That Needs Not Be Ashamed – 2 Timothy 2:15

- You must live in such a way that you are always ready and qualified to preach Christ without contradiction.
- Avoid behaviours, attitudes, or responses that would later cause you to feel ashamed or disqualified to speak about Jesus.
- Ask yourself in every moment: “Will my response discredit my message?”

Example: If you respond harshly to someone who offends you, would you still have the moral and spiritual authority to preach Jesus to them an hour later?

“Worthy is the calling...” — Ephesians 4:1
Represent Him at all times, in all ways.

2. A Workman Whose Light Shines Before Men – Matthew 5:16

- It's easy to blend in among believers. But God calls you to shine in the darkness.
- When you are among unbelievers or in compromising settings, will your light still shine, or will you dim it to fit in?

“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” — John 1:5
Whether in your workplace, among friends, or in a foreign culture, your conduct must shine so brightly that it points people to Christ, even without words.

3. A Workman Whose Gentleness and Standards Are Known – Philippians 4:5

“Let your gentleness be evident to all.”

- You must live in such a way that people know who you are and Whose you are—not by your words alone, but by your fruit (Matthew 7:16).
- Not your spiritual gifts, not your eloquence, not your title—but your character, your response, your integrity, your patience, your love, your humility.

4. A Workman Whose Purpose is to Please and Glorify God – Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

- The ultimate goal is not visibility, validation, or applause—it is to please the Father.
- Every action, every word, every decision should say: “I want to glorify Jesus.”

5. A Workman Who Will Give Account – Romans 14:12, 2 Corinthians 5:10

“So then each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.”

- You will give an account—either in joy and confidence or in shame and regret.
- Live and act with the constant awareness that you are not living for now, but for eternity.



A WORKMAN WITHOUT SHAME - IN CONTEXT

To be a workman without shame means to be a vessel that consistently lives in such a way that you can always boldly represent Christ—without guilt, fear, or disqualification. It means your life, in secret and in public, aligns with the nature and character of the One who called and commissioned you. It is not perfection, but it is integrity. It is not a flawless life, but a consistent, surrendered, and examined one.

Let's reflect on a real-life example from Scripture: Adam. The Bible tells us in Genesis 3 that Adam and God had daily fellowship—divine friendship. God would come into the garden in the cool of the day to commune with Adam. But the moment Adam disobeyed God's instruction, he could no longer show up for that meeting. Why? Because he was ashamed. He hid himself. This is the first biblical picture of a workman with shame. One who failed in their assignment and, rather than run to God, had to run from Him because their conscience was guilty. This is what it means to be disqualified in your spirit—even before anyone else notices.

When the Lord asked, "Adam, where are you?" it wasn't because He didn't know Adam's physical location. It was a heart-check. "Where are you in our fellowship? Where are you in your obedience? Where are you in your calling?" And that's the same question God still asks His workmen today.

If you sit with a colleague daily, laughing at inappropriate jokes, gossiping about others, slandering people, or compromising values—and then turn around to invite that same person to church—would you not preach with shame? If you are known for lying, anger, fornication, or pride—would the same people you've misrepresented Christ before ever take your message seriously? The answer is likely no. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world... let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). But if your light has dimmed, and you resemble the darkness you're meant to expose, how can you manifest Jesus?

This is what Apostle Paul meant when he said, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed..." (2 Timothy 2:15). The approval is unto God, not unto man. Man may clap for your gift, your title, your knowledge, and your eloquence. But God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). God examines fruit, not just activity.

Can you, like Prophet Samuel, confidently say at the end of your journey, "Whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed?" (1 Samuel 12:3). That is the boldness of a faithful, shameless workman—a person whose life speaks louder than their words.

Can your neighbours, colleagues, or even your family members say, "She reflects Christ," or will they mockingly say, "You? And you say you're a Christian?" We must never become the contradiction of the Gospel we preach. Paul warns in 2 Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

In the end, Jesus will return—not for busy workers, but for faithful ones. He will say to some, "Depart from me, I never knew you..." even though they did mighty works in His name (Matthew 7:21-23). And to others, He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

So, ask yourself today: Would you be able to stand before Him and give account with boldness, or would you bow your head in shame? Are you a workman who represents Christ in word, in deed, and in fruit? Let your election be sure. Let your life reflect the One you claim to serve. Be the kind of workman who can minister without shame—before men and before God.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Sometimes, this walk with Jesus can feel like foolishness. Christianity will cost you pride, the chance to clap back, and the satisfaction of proving your strength. There's often a quiet desire to show people that we, too, are capable of defending ourselves—that we're not weak, that we're not fools. And truly, we are not. But to live is Christ, and that means to be dead to self—especially when the flesh is itching to respond.

I remember being in a moment like that—deeply challenged and insulted. Everything in me had resolved to confront the person after the event. I had a plan: to speak with clarity and confidence, to prove that I was not to be taken lightly. But then the Lord, in His gentle way, interrupted my plan with a question that humbled me:

“After your planned action, if I require you to preach to this individual, would you be able to do it without shame?”

That one question broke my heart.

Then He said, “Ima-Obong, never do anything that would hinder your qualification to carry out My assignment. Your election must always be sure so you can be a workman at all times—without shame.”

Since then, those words have become a compass for my spirit. And maybe they're for you too. You see, it's easy to feel justified in your emotions—hurt, anger, disappointment. You want to defend your name, your image, your strength. But heaven isn't looking for defenders of self—it's looking for defenders of the Gospel. Men and women who have crucified the flesh so thoroughly that even when they are right, they would rather be righteous. Those who will absorb insult and wear it like a crown, if only Christ can be glorified through it.

The Lord reminded me that the strength of a workman is not in how well they fight back, but in how fully they are surrendered. Your light shines brightest not when you respond with fire, but when you respond with Christ. That's the kind of workman He's looking for—one that never forfeits their spiritual authority by succumbing to the temptation of carnal satisfaction.

I imagined standing before the Lord one day, and He says, “I needed you to represent Me to that person, but your reaction stained your witness. I wanted them to see Me through you, but all they saw was another human responding in the flesh.” That thought grieved me.

So I ask you too, as the Lord asked me: Would you still be able to preach, with boldness and purity, to the very person you wanted to prove a point to?

Would your life back up your message? Would your response open a door for salvation or close it forever?



CONCLUSION

In every season, in every setting—whether in the spotlight or in silence—you are God’s workman. You are not your own; you were bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20). And with that calling comes the sacred responsibility to live in a way that consistently glorifies your Master. You must always be ready—not just to serve, but to be seen as a worthy ambassador of Christ.

Your responses, your character, your integrity, and your choices must all say one thing: “I belong to Jesus.” Not occasionally, not only when it’s convenient, but at all times—even when misunderstood, offended, tested, or unseen. That is the true test of an approved workman—one who doesn’t need to hide, doesn’t minister with shame, and doesn’t disqualify themselves by how they live.

Let this be your daily pursuit: To live a life that needs not be defended, a life that speaks loudly of Christ, a life that will not be ashamed before the throne.

So then, beloved, be diligent. Keep your vessel clean. Let your light shine. Make your election sure. And when He comes or calls, may He find you faithful, qualified, and unashamed.

“Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”

— Matthew 24:46

PRAYER

Father, help us to die daily. To choose silence over self-defence. To pick the cross over convenience. To prefer Your approval over man’s applause. Give us the grace to walk away when pride wants to speak. Give us the strength to stay soft when life tries to harden us.

Lord, we want to be workmen without shame, usable in Your hands at all times. May nothing in our actions, reactions, or responses disqualify us from ministering Jesus. When You need a voice, let us be available—clean, ready, and bold. Help us to live as those who know we will give an account. Let our lives speak louder than our words. In Jesus name, Amen.

