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"STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED"

The picture of the young woman you see just below is that of Tilly Norwood. Tilly Norwood is an actress, for this she was created and brought into the world. She is a product of AI. She is not real. But, it is amazing how this created "starlet" has caused quite a stir in "tinsel-town. Which should be expected, considering some speculate production costs would plummet, maybe even up to 90% if movies and such like used AI created actors. For some time AI has been used to provide "voice-overs" in video gaming and other forms of entertainment not to mention everyday life (frustrated about your recent calls to your bank, insurance company, utility company?). So you may well ask what, if anything does this have to do with spiritual matters?



at the drop of hat, or more properly stated, with the touch of a key board. Ideas and insights concerning the Scriptures can be shared in the proverbial blink of an eye. However, with the growth of AI, it is now possible for those thusly inclined to have AI do your studying for you. A preacher running short on time and

needing a new sermon, type in the subject, wait a few seconds and viola, there it is, replete with Scripture references.

Need an article on a given subject, no problem; let AI handle it. There are so many problems to all of this, but at the bedrock is that there is no

genuine mastery. No real possession of knowledge, simply regurgitation of something spewed forth by artificial intelligence (AI) How can there be a deepening of one's relationship with God if there is no ownership of knowledge?

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." (2Timothy 2:15)

"Thy word have I treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee." (Psalms 119:11)

In the passages noted above it can be clearly seen that the knowledge of God and His word is precious and each one is to take ownership of the relationship that knowledge produces. However, with the rise of AI, there has been presented to some a "short cut". "Treasuring" or "hiding" God's word, means more than rote memorization. It involves allowing the Scriptures to shape our thoughts, desires and actions. Or in essence equip self with spiritual resources to withstand temptation and to defend the truth; handling accurately the word, like a skilled workman.

The internet is a valuable source of information. It also provides perspective of others

Can it be said that vicarious knowledge is true knowledge? It would seem no, as Peter demonstrates in the following, *"but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence"* (1Peter 3:15) In order to do as Peter directs it demands clear understanding of God's word, also note there is an attitude that is involved. Which ties back to relationship and the changed individual the message of gospel has produced. Take a few moments and read over 2Timothy 3:14-17 and awaken to what Paul is setting forth.

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) Focus on the word *"thoughts and intentions of the heart"*. AI? (wbe)