

# Refocusing our Sight in 2020

## Part II

Last week we started a word study on words that would help us stay properly focused on Christ. We talked about “meditate” and said that it is about getting the mind focused on the right things. So, let’s pick up from there and continue our study:

*Diligent* Diligence means to give careful focused attention to the task at hand, to work hard at something. A diligent student is one who gives careful focused attention and hard work toward his studies. He/she is not distracted by his/her studies. The New Testament word means, "to exert oneself, to endeavor, to give diligence" (Thayer's). It's the same word used in Ephesians 4:3: "...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit..." (also II Peter 1:10). Just like an athlete who gives himself/herself to diligent training, focusing on the goal, we must give ourselves to diligent training in God's Word so that we can reach the goal of our race (Hebrews 12:1-2). Also, when we think about diligence in the workplace, we think of those who give their best effort, those who always strive to give 100% in whatever they do. Such a person will never have the opportunity to be ashamed of having his/her work exposed for being substandard. This is the idea of II Timothy 2:15, giving all diligence to serving God and using His Word correctly, the man of God will never have the opportunity to be ashamed, not only in the sight of God but in the sight of man. What could bring greater shame on a person than being asked to give the reason for the beliefs he holds to and not having one. Or, the shame of being exposed for mishandling the Word of God! One thing is certain: a person will mishandle the Word of God if diligent effort, focused attention, is not given to handle it rightly (II Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:11; II Peter 3:14).