

How Do We Rightly Divide the Word? – Part 2

Keys to Understanding Scripture

1. By Affirming the Inspiration of God's Word.

a. Plenary: Every Part

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

b. Verbal: Every Word

Matthew 5:17-18 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

2. By Approaching the Bible Normally

a. Take the plain, ordinary meaning

b. It says what it means (and means what it says)

This includes the interpretation of creation, which is foundational to accurate interpretation of the entire Word of God.

c. Do not allegorize/spiritualize (says one thing; means another)

d. Figures of speech first need to be understood normally

3. By Accepting the Bible as _____ Book

a. The Bible is _____ – One Divine Author

The entire Bible needs to be taken together. No one book stands alone.
The Old Testament needs to be understood for the New Testament to make sense and to be accurately understood.

b. The Bible is _____ – God revealed truth over time

It is clear that the Bible was given over time.

People in the earlier portions of Scripture did not know what was in the NT or even later books of the OT. Those in Jesus' time did not have the Epistles.

We can and should use the later books to better clarify the former books. However, we should not "read into" the text our understanding (from having the entire Bible) into what they would have understood without the entire Bible.

4. By Addressing _____ in Our Understanding

a. _____ – translation, words, & grammar

The Bible was written in Hebrew and Aramaic (OT) and Greek, not English.

b. _____ – As understood by the people of that day...

This is necessary to understand how the recipients would view the writing, rather than imposing our present worldview on the text. (Warning: Don't be tempted to explain away hard passages as "cultural.") Jewish, Greek, and Roman cultures are involved in the Bible.

c. _____ – Details aid in our understanding.

Locations, paths, and terrain are all part of the Bible narrative. The details are there for a reason, and give us a more complete account of details.

d. _____ – What circumstances were surrounding them?

Understanding the historical setting of events (in and out of the Bible) is often helpful in accurately understanding the Bible text, allowing people and events to be put in their historical context.

5. By Assessing the Full _____ of Every Passage

a. The _____ Context – the words of the entire verse

b. The _____ Context – verses before and after

c. The Entire _____ – purpose and intent of book

d. The Entire _____ – compare Scripture with Scripture

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent

to present yourself

approved to God,

a worker

who does not need to be ashamed,

RIGHTLY DIVIDING

THE WORD OF TRUTH.