

Hermeneutics

Lesson Three

Review of Lessons One and Two

Comparing Scripture to Scripture

Rightly Dividing Scripture

Case Study: Phases of Salvation

Case Study: Wine in the Bible

Case Study: Ptolemy

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples?

Lesson One

Introduction

Means of Understanding

What is Reading?

What is Understanding?

The Need for Understanding

What is Interpretation?

Understanding – Examples

Elihu the Interpreter

Every Word of God

Personal Qualifications

Understanding - 1

1. It is possible to read and know the Bible and not understand it.
2. Jesus rebuked religious leaders of His day for not understanding scripture.
“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice” (Matt 19:13).
“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice” (Matt 12:7).
“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures” (Matt 22:29).
3. He rebuked seminary grads that fanatically adored scripture ... *for not reading!*
“Have ye not read ...” (Matt 12:3)?
“Or have ye not read ...” (Matt 12:5)?
“Have ye not read ...” (Matt 19:4)?
“Did ye never read in the scriptures ...” (Matt 21:42)?
“... have ye not read ...” (Matt 22:31)?

Understanding - 2

“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Neh 8:8).

1. We **READ** to decode language marks for words and sentences.
2. We read **DISTINCTLY** to separate and differentiate each word.
3. We **GIVE** something to hearers by clear verbal communication.
4. We give **THE SENSE** as God’s intended meaning by the words.
5. We **CAUSE** hearers to obtain a desired effect by these means.
6. We cause hearers to **UNDERSTAND** the reading themselves.

Personal Qualifications

WARNING

Do not neglect or underestimate this section.

This is the most important factor in knowing scripture.

The Bible is a spiritual book, written by the eternal Spirit, Who demands we use it on His terms. While the flesh, the world, Satan, and most Bible students ignore or despise these points, they are more important than any rules of hermeneutics. Crush your impatience, and wait upon the Lord for the liberal wisdom and understanding that only He can give.

Father, Lord of heaven and earth, help us babes.

Personal Qualifications

1. You must be born again to see anything.
2. You must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit.
3. You must fear God to even begin learning.
4. You must delight in God to obtain His favor.
5. You must obey and apply all learning.
6. You must ask in prayer for knowledge.
7. You must seek for understanding to get it.
8. You must accept correction and instruction.
9. You must have godly and noble motives.
10. You need to use your God-given teachers.

Lesson Two

Large Context – No Contradictions

Small Context – Master Guide

Case Study: Ahaziah's Age

Case Study: Revelation 3:20

Case Study: Book of Hebrews

Large Context – No Contradictions

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”

II Peter 1:20

- 1. We gladly claim this as the first rule of Bible interpretation.**
- 2. Private. Separate, alone, individual, personal, peculiar, special.**
- 3. No part of the scripture can teach a contradiction to the whole.**
- 4. There are no contradictions – it is our job to reconcile all parts.**
- 5. Why? Because it was written by 40 writers but only one Author.**

Small Context – Master Guide

A text used out of context is a pretext!

1. A TEXT is a word, clause, verse, or paragraph to interpret.
2. CONTEXT is the surrounding information showing intent.
3. OUT OF CONTEXT is using words contrary to the Author's intent.
4. A PRETEXT is a false impression designed to hide the truth.
5. ASK ... Who, Whom, Why, When, What, and Where?

Which Contextual Rule Rejects the Heresy?

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12).

“I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up” (Ac 15:16).

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal 5:4).

Compare Scripture with Scripture – 1

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

I Corinthians 2:13

- 1. The wonderful context here is the Spirit’s revelation of God’s mysteries.**
- 2. Paul acknowledged he and other apostles declared those mysteries.**
- 3. They did not use words of man’s wisdom, but words of God’s choice.**
- 4. They compared spiritual things with spiritual by Spirit-given things.**
- 5. The Bible is a spiritual book by a Spiritual Author, not human literature.**

Compare Scripture with Scripture – 2

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

I Corinthians 2:13

- 6. No man can or does know the things of God but the Spirit of God.**
- 7. Man’s natural ideas of words and concepts are dangerous in scripture.**
- 8. Every word of God is important (Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Luke 4:4).**
- 9. Scripture argues individual words ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/every-word-of-god.pdf>.**
- 10. For more on this passage ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/mysteries-of-hidden-wisdom.pdf>.**

Comparing Scripture Illustrated

- 1. We compare scriptural things by words (verbal) or concepts (real).**
- 2. For example, “quicken” in Eph 2:1 can be compared to I Peter 3:18, where we learn that it means to make alive or to resurrect.**
- 3. Then, the concept of being made alive can be compared to other words.**
- 4. We find “born again” as an equivalent in John 3:3,7 and I Peter 1:23.**
- 5. We find “begotten again” as an equivalent in I Peter 1:3 and I John 5:1.**
- 6. “Resurrected” is an equivalent concept in John 5:25-29 and Rev 20:6.**
- 7. “Regenerated” is an equivalent concept in Titus 3:5 and Matthew 19:28.**

Comparing Scripture Applied

- 1. We cannot stop until we have compared all related words and concepts.**
- 2. What study tool shows each occurrence of each word? A concordance.**
- 3. What study tools show concepts? *The Treasury* and *Nave's Topical*.**
- 4. This rule assumes the Bible is internally superior to external aids, so we trust the Spirit's guidance in the Bible over human commentaries.**
- 5. Therefore, we say the Bible is the best commentary on the Bible.**
- 6. We use commentaries to accelerate finding the Spirit's comparisons.**
- 7. We must compare scripture to resolve all "contradictions." See rule #1.**

Comparing Scripture Abused

- 1. This rule does not mean we reject human learning, experience, history, and other fields of study not recorded in the Bible.**
- 2. Without “Dick and Jane” in first grade, we cannot even read the Bible.**
- 3. Without zoology, we miss the frequent metaphors to various animals.**
- 4. Without figures of speech, we are reading a book that will only confuse.**
- 5. Without a basic knowledge of elementary history, Daniel’s prophecies are closed to understanding, for they prophesy of world history that was fulfilled outside the pages and limited timing of the scriptures.**
- 6. For an example of abuse in Daniel 8 ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/days-of-daniel-8.pdf>.**

Comparing Scripture Illustrated Again – 1

1. God chose to communicate with words, so we want His meaning for each word, not the constant change and obsolescence of dictionaries.
2. Obsessive use of dictionaries (natural) will not help scripture (spiritual).
3. What about *cleave* (Ge 2:24)? Cut in half? Job 38:38; Ps 137:6; Je 13:11!
4. What about *dog* (Deut 23:18)? The OED cannot help at all! Context will!
5. What about *knew* (Matt 7:23)? Do not assume. See Gen 4:1 and Am 3:2.
6. What about *Easter* (Acts 12:4)? It is the Passover; see context and OED.
7. What about *instant* (II Tim 4:2)? See Luke 23:23; Acts 26:7; and Romans 12:12 before teaching that preachers should be like a Jack-in-the-box.

Comparing Scripture Illustrated Again – 2

8. What about *let* and *letteth* (II Thess 2:7)? Does the *let* in II Thess 2:3 help you? Or does *withhold* in II Thess 2:6 help more? Or Isaiah 43:13?
9. What about *filth of the flesh* (I Pet 3:21)? Baptismal regenerationists make this dirt of the body. We read Rom 7:18; II Cor 7:1; Gal 5:16-24! We cannot accept the doctrine of bathtub sanctification – that a good bath prepares you for heaven (II Cor 7:1)!
10. What about *baptize*? Reading only a tithe of the opinions of men in Greek or English will drive you to atheism and/or insanity. We understand the simple meaning by reading Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 15:29; and I Peter 3:21.

Comparing Scripture – Divorce

1. **Mark and Luke reject divorce and remarriage (Mk 10:11-12; Luk 16:18).**
2. **But Matthew twice records an exception for fornication (Mat 5:32; 19:9).**
3. **And Paul added another exception for desertion (I Cor 7:12-16,27-28).**
4. **He explained *not under bondage* by comparison (I Cor 7:15 cp 7:27-28).**
5. **Comparing finds even more (Genesis 21:9-13; Ezra 10:1-44; Jer 3:8-11).**
6. **Comparing finds Jesus taught principles (Matt 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28).**
7. **Comparing shows Rom 7:1-3 is unrelated (De 24:1-2; 21:14; Ex 21:7-11), for it is merely dealing with death, as we say, “till death do us part.”**

Comparing Scripture – Bought, But Destroyed

- 1. Peter wrote that God would destroy those He had *bought* (II Peter 2:1).**
- 2. Those teaching a general atonement rejoice. But rule #1 denies them.**
- 3. By comparing, we find Peter was a minister to the Jews (Gal 2:9).**
- 4. By comparing, we find Peter using a warning by Moses (Deut 32:5-6).**
- 5. By comparison, we find “bought” describes God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt (De 4:34-35; 7:8; 15:15; 24:18; Ps 106:21-22; Is 43:3-4; etc.).**
- 6. Peter warned of false teachers so wicked they would deny the very God that had delivered their nation, thus magnifying their profane character.**

Comparing Scripture – Acts 2:38

1. Campbellites fantasize that Acts 2:38 demands baptismal salvation.
2. Rule #1 denies them, as they assume *for* must mean in order to obtain.
3. By comparing, we find Mark 1:40-44, where *for* means in testimony of.
4. By comparing, this agrees with a conscience answering (I Pet 3:21)!
5. By comparing, this agrees with baptism testifying (I Cor 15:29)!
6. Our .66 magnum just blew their “ax and two .38’s” to pieces (Jer 23:29)!
7. Any other method of interpretation will likely give them their premise.

Comparing Scripture – Regeneration before Faith

- 1. We know regeneration precedes faith by our first rule (John 3:3; 8:47).**
- 2. We can prove in English the priority for regeneration first by I John 5:1.**
- 3. We can do this without appealing to the Greek aorist tense, which vindicates us, as a reading of a Greek interlinear will usually show.**
- 4. By comparing, we find I John 4:7 compared to I John 3:14 defending us!**
- 5. By comparing, we find I John 2:29 also defending us. Thank you, Lord!**
- 6. Then the Lord provides sweet icing with I John 4:15 ... by comparing!**
- 7. Though the argument is based on grammar, we prove it by comparing!**

Comparing Scripture – Abomination of Desolation

- 1. Matt 24:15 is one of the simpler verses in the Bible, if not for corrupters.**
“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”
- 2. It is not a Starbucks Coffee shop in the foyer of a rebuilt Jewish temple!**
- 3. Jesus said the obscure words are understood by comparing scripture!**
- 4. Daniel 9:26-27 and 12:7,11 plainly describe an army making desolate!**
- 5. Comparing Luke is even easier ... when you see armies (Luke 21:20)!**
- 6. What ridiculous speculating could have been avoided by comparing!**

Comparing Scripture – When Was Jesus Slain?

1. **Some speak of Jesus being slain from the foundation of the world.**

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev 13:8).

2. **We agree that He was foreordained to come and die for us (I Peter 1:20).**

3. **But we know He came and was slain in time (Gal 4:4; II Tim 1:10; etc.).**

4. **So we disagree strongly that this point is taught in Revelation 13:8.**

5. **When we do a little comparison, we align the prepositional phrase right.**

“They that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world” (Rev 17:8).

Comparing Scripture – Whole World

1. How is Jesus the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (I Jn 2:2)?
2. If He were, no one would be in hell, for what crime could He send them?
3. If He were, hell is empty, for a propitiated God could not send them.
4. Rule #1 proves that I John 2:2 uses whole world in some limited sense.
5. Just a little comparison shows *world* limited greatly (Lu 2:1; Jn 12:19).
6. A little more comparison shows John a minister to Jews (Gal 2:9).
7. A little more comparison shows *world* to mean Gentiles (Rom 11:12,15).

Comparing Scripture – All Men to Be Saved

1. Some get excited that God wants to save all men (I Timothy 2:4).
2. They argue oh so deeply, “*All* means all, and that’s all *all* means!”
3. But we already know universal redemption is heresy by rule #1.
4. And we reject Paul as a practicing sodomite by three *all*’s (I Cor 9:22).
5. Nor does loving money cause men to use prostitutes (I Timothy 6:10).
6. By comparison, we understand I Timothy 6:10 in the same sense as I Timothy 2:1-2, *all sorts* of evil and *all sorts* of men.

Comparing Scripture – Drink Ye All of It

“And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it” (Matthew 26:27).

- 1. Jesus said, “Drink ye all of it,” but He was not worried about leftovers.**
- 2. He condemned the Catholic heresy of restricting the wine from the laity.**
- 3. A Southerner might figure this out by reading, “Drink ya’ll of it.”**
- 4. But the rest of us must compare scripture (Luke 22:17; Mark 14:23).**

“He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves.”

“He took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.”

Comparing Scripture – A Few More

- 1. How do the violent take the kingdom by force (Matt 11:12)? Be pressing into it (Luke 16:16)!**
- 2. Since we know I Corinthians 4:15 cannot mean regeneration by our first rule, we compare Galatians 4:19 and Titus 1:4 for the proper sense.**
- 3. Since Luke 2:48 and John 6:42 cannot teach that Joseph was Jesus' biological father, we learn by comparing Matthew 1:16 and Luke 3:23.**
- 4. By comparing Luke 14:26 and Matt 10:37, we learn that hating our relatives for Christ means not letting our affection for them compete.**
- 5. What is the water in John 3:5? Baptism, as cross-references? Amniotic fluid, as others? Or the Holy Spirit by comparison (Jn 7:38-39; Tit 3:5)?**
[It cannot be amniotic, for it is ignored in the Bible, not a cause of birth, Nicodemus's foolish idea, and excludes John the Baptist.]

Comparing Scripture – Weeds Gone to Seed

- 1. Matt 27:5 says Judas hanged himself; Jesus in Luke 10:37 said to do likewise; and Jesus said in John 13:27, “That thou doest, do quickly.” *Should we impetuously run out to hang ourselves like Judas?***
- 2. A very few Baptists follow Rome and the Mennonites by reading John 13:1-17 about Jesus washing the disciples feet and comparing I Tim 5:8 to believe they have two witnesses. *But I Timothy 5:8 proves the opposite – washing feet was not done by all the church! These same partial scribes never compare Romans 16:16; I Cor 16:20; etc.!***
- 3. A fewer few teach membership by baptism by connecting Rom 6:4 and Heb 10:20 and then 10:25, but the absurdity is beyond explanation!**
- 4. A fewer one teaches the number in heaven by Rev 7:9 with Gen 5:27!**

Rightly Divide Scripture – 1

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

II Timothy 2:15

- 1. This oft-quoted verse was ministerial instruction from Paul to Timothy.**
- 2. Bible words and concepts must often be divided into different senses.**
- 3. Unless division is often needed, Paul would not have stated the rule.**
- 4. The dividing process, whatever it is, requires study and a workman.**
- 5. The dividing process, if it is neglected, offends God and brings shame.**

Rightly Divide Scripture – 2

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

II Timothy 2:15

- 6. Resentment of dividing verses of scripture is ignorance or rebellion.**
- 7. God will only approve a man of God that seeks to always rightly divide.**
- 8. Bishops can be shamed without rightly dividing by easy contradictions.**
- 9. The Bible is written with this degree of difficulty to confound the wise.**
- 10. It is for this reason we love to divide the word to defend and honor God.**

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

NKJV: Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

NIV: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

NCV: Make every effort to give yourself to God the kind of person he will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way.

CEV: Do your best to win God's approval as a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed and who teaches only the true message.

MESSAGE: Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won't be ashamed of, laying out the truth plain and simple.

What Is Dividing? – 1

- 1. It takes the same word or similar words and gives them different senses or meanings in different contexts.**
- 2. It takes similar or related concepts and gives them different senses or meanings in different contexts.**
- 3. It identifies and distinguishes various distinctions among the different ways to understand similar or related words, phrases, or passages.**
- 4. It determines which commandment or precept applies to a situation when more than one can be connected or related to the situation.**
- 5. It determines the proper priority of ranking God's commandments or attributes or any other aspect of scripture to avoid contradictions.**

What Is Dividing? – 2

Divide. To separate (a thing) into parts, or (a number or collective body) into smaller groups; to split up, cleave; to break or cut asunder. To separate into branches; to cause to ramify. To separate or mark out (a continuous whole) into parts (in fact, or in thought); to make to consist of parts, or to distinguish the parts of. To separate into classes; to distinguish the kinds of; to class, classify. Formerly, in scholastic use, To draw distinctions with regard to; also *absolutely*: = [**Distinguish.** To make a distinction in or with respect to; *esp.*, in scholastic use, to draw distinctions between various meanings of (a word or statement); hence, to do *away*, or *out of*, bring *into* (something) by making subtle distinctions. To make or draw a distinction; to perceive or note the difference between things; to exercise discernment; to discriminate.] To make separation or distinction (*between*). To make distinctions, as in logic.

What Is Dividing? – 3

Deuteronomy 17:

8 If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose;

9 And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:

10 And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee:

11 According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left.

12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.

13 And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.

What Is Dividing? – 4

II Chronicles 19:

8 Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

10 And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass.

11 And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

What Is Dividing? – 5

- 1. When Ezra gave the sense of the reading and caused understanding (Neh 8:8), he made distinctions not readily apparent by only reading.**
- 2. Deut 23:18 does not condemn selling a dog. What shame (II Tim 2:15)!**
- 3. Deut 22:5 does not condemn pants on a woman, but rather effeminacy, cross-dressing, transvestism, lascivious sexual experimentation, gender-bending parties, and role playing (I Cor 6:9; Lev 18:22-30; etc.).**
- 4. Prov 23:13-14 does not justify beating a child as hard as you can or that your beating will send him to heaven! It will save him an early death.**
- 5. See how Jesus used “temple” to refer to His body (Jn 2:17-22), “water” for the Holy Spirit (Jn 4:4-15), that neither the blind man or his parents had sinned (Jn 9:2-3), or the sleep of rest and of death (Jn 11:11-14)!**

What Is Dividing? – 6

- 1. The Bible often uses a word or concept with several senses; it is our duty to find the different senses and classify the verses accordingly.**
- 2. If a word or concept in different places seems to contradict, learn the habit of classification of verses into a reconciled system of divisions.**
- 3. When identical or similar statements arise in different contexts, an instinctive desire to consider different senses must be nurtured.**
- 4. Every occurrence of a word or concept must be considered, since an obvious different sense will help define the needed division(s).**
- 5. The rule teaches the value of defining terms, essential to knowledge.**
- 6. Refrain from unnecessary divisions, but do not be afraid to divide.**

Rightly Dividing – Used By Jesus (1)

- 1. Jesus defended His apostles for picking and eating corn on a Sabbath Day by rightly dividing the word of truth (Matt 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28).**
- 2. The Pharisees, the Fundamentalists of that time, could only interpret in literal, natural, black-and-white, critical ways learned in seminary.**
- 3. He raised a contradiction about David needing to be rightly divided to maintain the integrity of scripture and to make a point (12:3-4; 2:25-26).**
- 4. He then raised another contradiction about the priests profaning the Sabbath that needed to be rightly divided (12:5; 2:27).**
- 5. He then suggested another division about God and the temple, in that He Himself as God in the flesh was greater than any of it (12:6)!**

Rightly Dividing – Used By Jesus (2)

- 6. Drawing a conclusion, He rightly divided that mercy was greater than sacrifice by using Hos 6:6 and Pr 21:3 for David and His apostles (12:7)!**
- 7. Making a further right division, He taught that the intent of a precept is more important than the letter of the precept (Mark 2:27).**
- 8. As Lord of the Sabbath, He made some powerful distinctions about the place and purpose of one of the Old Testament's greatest commands.**
- 9. We judge righteously by rightly dividing, not by appearance (Jn 7:24).**
- 10. Do you have the spiritual sense of David and Jesus to rightly divide scripture to honor the principle of mercy (12:7) and the principle of intent (2:27) ... even when there are no specific verses to guide you?**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Jesus

- 1. We divide Jesus two ways by the union of His divine and human natures in one glorious Person. Remember, He is the Godman!**
- 2. Some verses refer to His humanity distinct from His divinity, and you must determine it so by more than just the name used for Him (Luke 2:52; 4:1-2; John 19:26,28; Acts 20:28; Gal 2:20; I Cor 15:28).**
- 3. Some verses refer to His divinity distinct from His humanity, and you must determine it so by more than just the name used for Him (John 3:13; 6:62; 8:56-58; Eph 3:9; Heb 1:2).**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Israel

- 1. Some verses use Israel for physical Jews (Romans 9:27,31; 10:19,21).**
- 2. Some verses use Israel for spiritual Jews (Romans 10:1; Gal 6:16).**
- 3. Some verses use house of David for elect Gentiles (Acts 15:14-18).**
- 4. This division is easier than some, since Scripture states it (Rom 9:6)!**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Temptation

- 1. We divide temptation into at least two senses to avoid a contradiction.**
- 2. God tempted Abraham by telling him to offer Isaac on an altar (Ge 22:1).**
- 3. Yet, God is not tempted with evil nor does He tempt any man (Jas 1:13).**
- 4. We must divide between the lust for sin of our own hearts (Jas 1:14-16) and the opportunity or occasion for that lust to acts (I Cor 10:13).**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Justification

1. We must divide between Paul and James on this great subject.
2. Martin Luther scorned the book of James to exalt his *sola fide!*
3. Many others have not gone that far, but they slight James' doctrine.
4. We esteem James' doctrine to be as much inspired truth as Romans.
5. Paul taught legal justification by redemption in Christ's blood (Rom 3:24), which only requires the evidence of faith against Moses' Law.
6. James taught practical justification by proving one's faith by works, as Abraham proved Gen 15:6 in Gen 22:12, against carnal Christians.
7. A key to the truth is to rightly balance these complementary points.

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Marriage

- 1. Paul seems to contradict whether virgins and widows should marry.**
- 2. Marriage as a general rule is good (Ge 2:18; Ru 3:1; Pr 18:22; I Ti 5:14).**
- 3. But a “present distress” at Corinth suggested against it (I Cor 7:25-28).**
- 4. If a man or woman could live without marriage, they should for the sake of the present distress and to serve Christ better (I Cor 7:6-9,28-35).**
- 5. If a widow could contain fleshly desires and chose to serve God, she should do so in a single life dedicated to God (I Cor 7:39-40; I Tim 5:9).**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Will of God

- 1. We must divide the will of God we are to trust and that we are to obey.**
- 2. If we do not, we can easily fall into a ditch of Fatalism on one hand or a ditch of Deism on the other (God is only watching from a distance).**
- 3. God's secret will is His eternal purpose that He will bring about in matters large and small, and it is absolutely certain (Ro 9:19; Jas 4:15).**
- 4. God's revealed will is His written rules for our obedient conduct in life, which depends to a large degree on our faithfulness (I Thess 4:3; 5:18).**
- 5. We have assistance with this division from Moses (Deut 29:29).**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Swearing

- 1. The Bible condemns swearing, yet Jesus, Paul, and others swore often.**
- 2. The Bible says anything beyond yes or no is sin (Mat 5:33-37; Jas 5:12).**
- 3. God, Paul, and an angel swore (Heb 6:13; 7:21; Rev 10:5-6; II Cor 1:23).**
- 4. The Mennonites, JW's, and other denominations are heretically confused and ashamed in doctrine on this point that you can grasp.**
- 5. True swearing is an act of worship God accepts and desires (De 10:20).**
- 6. Sinful swearing is (a) by the wrong object and/or (b) for frivolous reasons and/or (c) without keeping your oath (Matt 23:16-22; Jer 4:2).**

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Miscellaneous (1)

1. Can you distinguish holy and sinful fear of God (Gen 3:10; Jas 2:19)?
2. How about taking thought for tomorrow (Matt 6:34 vs Pro 22:3; 19:2)?
3. Does the testament matter? As in musical instruments (Ps 150:3-5)? As in an eye for an eye (Matt 5:38)? As in polygamy (Ex 21:10)?
4. Did Jesus change Moses in Sermon on the Mount (Mat 5:21-22; etc.)?
5. Is God the Author of Confusion? Yes (Gen 11:7)! No (I Cor 14:33)!
6. Does baptism wash away sins? Yes (Acts 22:16)! No (I Peter 3:21)!
7. What is the water in John 3:5? Baptism, birth, Spirit (Jn 7:39; Tit 3:5)?

Examples of Rightly Dividing – Miscellaneous (2)

8. Are baptism and membership the same (Ac 2:41; 8:37; 9:26; I Cor 5:13)?
9. Is there more than one way to fall from grace, sorry Alex (Gal 5:4)?
10. Can we use the day-year rule in Dan 7, not in Dan 8, and again in Dan 9, and on what basis? Because the timeframes and fulfillment determine!
11. Can we allow Easter Bunny Day because Paul did (Romans 14:5-6)?
12. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy but did not Titus (Ac 16:1-3; Gal 2:3)?
13. How many divisions are there in N.T. amounts of wine consumption?

Examples of Wrongly Dividing

- 1. C.I. Scofield, who wrote “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth,” divided the Bible into seven dispensations in spite of Rom 5:14 and Luke 16:16, and he and others sometimes confused how men were saved.**
- 2. C.I.S. foolishly divided the kingdom of heaven and of God (Mat 9:23-24).**
- 3. C.I.S. also divided the coming of Christ (for His saints) from the coming of the Lord (with His saints) to avoid the condemnation of II Thes 2:1-3, where the Bible does not even hint at such a distinction (I Thes 4:13-17; II Thes 1:7-10; 2:1-3). His introduction to II Thess exposes him.**
- 4. Billy Sunday’s followers divide words for wine like this: if the passage commends it, then it is grape juice; if the passage condemns it, then it is wine. This is perverse circular reasoning and begging the question, and yet many pastors, schools, teachers, and books defend it.**

Examples of Wrongly Dividing

5. **Stewart Custer and his Greek-worshipping followers make a creative play on “lovest” between Jesus and Peter (John 21:15-17). But *agape* and *phileo* are synonyms! Compare Heb 12:6 (a) and Rev 3:19 (p); John 3:35 (a) and 5:20 (p); I Cor 16:22 (p) and II Cor 5:14 (a); John 11:5 (a) and John 11:36 (p); and John 20:2 (p) and John 21:7 (a). Let God be true! Love = love! Jesus gently chastised Peter three times for his three denials! Peter felt the force of the third question, not the use of a new word for love, as the Spirit indicated clearly (John 21:17). Why is this so evil? It overthrows the faith of young converts in their English Bibles.**

Case Study: Phases of Salvation (1)

- 1. Paul said he was not yet saved but knew it was nearer (Rom 13:11).**
- 2. Paul said salvation was by guarding himself and doctrine (I Tim 4:16).**
- 3. Paul said salvation was by God's purpose in eternity (II Tim 1:9).**
- 4. Paul said salvation was by Holy Spirit regeneration (Titus 3:5).**
- 5. Paul said salvation was when Jesus came into the world (I Tim 1:15).**
- 6. When Timothy and Titus traded emails and read Romans, they were confused about the state of their apostle's and mentor's soul. Not!**
- 7. How intelligent is this question, "When Were You Saved?"**

Case Study: Phases of Salvation (2)

- Eternal Phase:** God chose His elect in Jesus Christ for eternal life.
- Legal Phase:** Jesus paid the price for their soul redemption by death.
- Vital Phase:** God the Holy Spirit brings about the new birth in time.
- Practical Phase:** They are converted by hearing and believing the gospel.
- Final Phase:** They are glorified in heaven for eternity by God's power.

Without this division and its *ordo salutis*, we are confused about salvation.

By this division, we also grasp adoption, sanctification, and other facets.

See this link and its charts ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/bible/salvation/when-were-you-saved.htm>.

Case Study: Phases of Salvation (3)

- 1. Can you lose your salvation by loss of memory (I Cor 15:2)? What?**
- 2. Can a brother's soul be lost? ... Can you save him again (Jas 5:19-20)?**
- 3. Does God keep you saved by His power (I Pet 1:5)? Are we Fatalists?**
- 4. Did Jesus by fear author eternal salvation for the obedient (Heb 5:9)?**
- 5. How can beloved brethren, already born again, get saved (Jas 1:21)?**
- 6. Did Paul practice save the lost at any cost (I Cor 9:22)? In what sense?**
- 7. What salvation did Peter use many words for on Pentecost (Acts 2:40)?**

Case Study: Wine In the Bible (1)

- 1. Teetotalers holler loud and long that (a) Bible wine is grape juice, (2) new wine is grape juice, and/or (3) Israel drank wine diluted with water.**
- 2. Many books have been written to “prove” the above, some thin and some very thick, filled with detailed compost intended to overwhelm your senses to miss the perversion of simple truth that even a child can learn from reading the Bible and trusting its words.**
- 3. They are nuts and Bible perverters, for the Holy Spirit commended wine and strong drink directly and identified Jesus as a regular drinker (Deut 14:26; Ps 104:14-15; Prov 31:6-7; Luke 7:33-34; etc.). See rule #1.**

Case Study: Wine In the Bible (2)

- 4. These liars will corrupt any verse to support their Pharisaical concept of “Temperance.” Grasping at words or phrases to condemn wine, they ignore the immediate context, as in Lev 10:9; Hab 2:15; etc. See rule #2.**
- 5. The best example of this lying from the Bible is the tract, “75 Bibles References on Drinking Alcohol.” We have a seminar folder and a coming web document destroying each of their 75 lies.**
http://www.justbychrist.co.za/images/stories/images/pdf/75Bible_References_on_DrinkingAlcohol-Pastor_BarneyLee.pdf
- 6. By comparing scripture, rule #3, Melchizedek used the same wine as Noah and Lot (Gen 9:21; 14:18; 19:33). Our Lord Jesus and Timothy used the very same wine Paul feared (John 2:1-11; I Tim 5:23; Rom 14:21; Eph 5:18). Such teetotalers are plainly liars.**

Case Study: Wine In the Bible (3)

- 7. By comparing scripture, rule #3, and reading a wine label, you know new wine is simply a recent vintage, and it is always as intoxicating as any other vintage. Do you think that Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 is less intoxicating than that of 2005? Read Hosea 4:11; Acts 2:12-15; etc.**

- 8. By comparing scripture, rule #3, and thinking for a minute or two, you know that diluting wine with water is a waste of wine, for the purpose of drinking wine is something that water cannot complement! It is a terrible thing when your wine is mixed with water! Read Isaiah 1:22!**

Case Study: Ptolemy (1)

- 1. Nearly all chronologies of the Bible depend on Ptolemy's (70-161 A.D.) estimate of the names and reigns of the Persian kings.**
- 2. This choice of a pagan speculator, though accomplished, requires Daniel's 70 weeks to commence in the 20th year of Artaxerxes.**
- 3. Most Bible students know the important role of Cyrus, so they deny him any specific role in rebuilding the city of Jerusalem (Dan 9:25).**
- 4. But we compare scripture with scripture, and we find confirmation that Cyrus did indeed give the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, and it was indeed rebuilt in significant measure before Artaxerxes reigned.**
- 5. Are we strong enough to say, "Let God be true, but Ptolemy a liar"?**

Case Study: Ptolemy (2)

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks...”

Daniel 9:25

“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid” (Isaiah 44:24-28).

Case Study: Ptolemy (3)

“I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 45:13).

“Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations” (Ezra 4:12).

“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’S house should be built. Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?” (Hag 1:1-4).

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples? – (1)

Match the reference to the “Every Word” example

Matthew 22:31-33

“seed”

Matthew 22:41-46

“are known”

John 8:56-58

“Lord”

John 10:33-36

“yet once more”

Galatians 3:16

“am”

Galatians 4:9

“new”

Hebrews 8:13

“am”

Hebrews 12:25-29

“gods”

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples? – (2)

Romans 4:

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples? – (3)

Genesis 17:

4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples? – (4)

1. By comparing scripture, rule #3 learned above, we know that Abraham had only a 13-year-old son named Ishmael when God spake these words to him in the 99th year of his life (Gen 17:1,24-25).
2. By comparing scripture, rule #3 learned above, we know that God also wisely and gloriously used the future tense for Abraham's descendants and nations in the verses around Genesis 17:5 (17:4 and 17:6).
3. By knowing the rudiments of our English language, rule #5 we shall learn soon, we know that the verbal phrase *I have made thee* is in the present perfect tense ... meaning that God's action toward Abraham had been completed in the past and was still true in the present.
4. Paul argued that God works above verb tenses from this verbal phrase!

Case Study: Do We Have 9 Examples? – (5)

Genesis 17:4-5 in the Contemporary English Version

I promise that you will be the father of many nations. That's why I now change your name from Abram to Abraham.

Genesis 17:4-6 in The Message

Then God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: You'll be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning that 'I'm making you the father of many nations.' I'll make you a father of fathers—I'll make nations from you, kings will issue from you.

Genesis 17:5 in the New Century Version

I am changing your name from Abram to Abraham because I am making you a father of many nations.

Conclusion

1. **I am overwhelmed with all I just heard.** Read the notes and review the points a couple times a week, looking for opportunities in your Bible reading to apply them, for it is the exercise that works (Heb 5:12-14).
2. The goal is to think on these things about every Bible passage you encounter **until it becomes part of your nature** to examine each verse in the light of the rules God has shown us.
3. On many of these subjects **there are much more extensive outlines available** in various formats e.g. sermons, seminars, documents, etc., so do not think our short summaries of points are all we can say!
4. Many of the examples, and we have looked at dozens, are wonderful parts of Bible truth deserving extensive study themselves, and **we should give thanks to the God of heaven for showing us so much.**