

# “Rightly Dividing The Word Of Truth”

2 Tim. 2:15

## Introduction:

- A. Two important facts recognized in our text:
  - 1. There is an objective standard of Truth — “the word of truth”.
  - 2. There is right and wrong way to handle the word.
    - a. “Rightly dividing”; “handling aright”; “correctly handles”
    - b. More than merely dividing O.T. from N.T.
    - c. “Divide” from word to cut straight, figuratively to expound correctly.
- B. Three essentials to rightly dividing or handling aright the word of truth.

## Discussion:

### **I. It Must be Rightly Understood. (cf. Neh. 8:8; Matt. 9:13).**

- A. Study definitions.
  - 1. Ordinary meanings: cf. “repentance”, “lasciviousness” etc.
  - 2. Varying meanings: “perfect”, “striker”
  - 3. Unusual and/or archaic: “prevent”, “let”, “wit”, etc.
  - 4. Avoid being locked into one meaning of word for all contexts: Soul, Hell.
- B. Study usage.
  - 1. Literal and figurative.
  - 2. Contextually.
    - a. Immediate context. (cf. “perfect” in Matt. 5:43-48).
    - b. General context. (“all truth” in Bible is spiritual truth, not secular truth)
    - c. Historical, geographical and cultural context both of text and its translation: “Oil & wine”, “New cloth..new wine, old bottles”

### **II. It Must be Rightly Explained. (cf. Acts 17:3; 18:26)**

- A. In light of what writer meant, not what it can be made to mean. (cf. John 21:20-25).
  - 1. “Finished *course*” - What kind of course in Paul have in mind?
  - 2. “First love” - What did writer mean by expression?
- B. In light of time of the writing: “There is..one baptism” (Eph. 4:5) in A.D. 65
- C. In light of all the Bible says on subject: salvation, church, pastors, etc.

### **III. It Must be Rightly Applied. (cf. Acts 17:3; Heb. 5:13,14).**

- A. Need to learn parallel and non-parallel situations. (“such like” - Gal. 5:21)
- B. Need to learn to determine essentials and incidentals. (Conversions in Acts).
- C. Need to learn to gather all information and reach necessary conclusions.

## Conclusion:

- A. We have word of truth - can understand it - must study it.
- B. We need more than strip miners for truth, need deep students.
- C. We need to correctly understand and apply the truth to themselves and hearers.