

# How to Interpret the Bible

## Lesson 2

### The Student of the Bible

#### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures

##### ➤ Three Classes of Discernment – 1 Corinthians 2:11- 3:2

- Because the Bible is a supernatural Book it is not readily understood by all men. According to 1 Corinthians 2:11-3:2, when it comes to discerning the Word of God there are three classes of people:

(1) The Natural Man – 1 Corinthians 2:14

1.This is the unsaved man who is spiritually blind, whose understanding is darkened – Eph. 4:18.

(2) The Carnal Man – 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

1.This is a believer who is controlled by his flesh. He is immature and remains a babe in his relationship to the Lord only being able to receive the *milk* of the Word.

(3) The Spiritual Man – 1 Corinthians 2:12, 15, 16

1.This is a believer who is controlled by the Spirit of God, and walking in obedience the God's Word. He, being surrendered, is able to discern and grow.

- Your spiritual condition will therefore mark your level of discernment when approaching the Bible as a Student of the Scriptures. Open to: 2 Timothy 2:15

#### a. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Student

##### 1. Commanded by God

The only direct command to *study* God's Word in the Scriptures is found in 2 Timothy 2:15. However there are countless exhortations for every person to read, learn, memorize, meditate, and obey the Word of God. All these are aspects of *study*.

##### a) Required by God in Both Testaments

1. God's people were commanded to TEACH the Scriptures, Deut. 4:9; 6:6-9
2. Israel's kings were to REWRITE and READ the Scriptures, Deut. 17:18-19
3. Exhorted to investigate and SEARCH the Scriptures. Jn. 5:39; Acts 17:11
4. Lack of scriptural KNOWLEDGE rebuked. Matt. 22:29

\*\*It is obvious that we are required by God to study in order know His Word.

##### b) Required by God to Study and to be a Workman

1. The word *study* is means "to make haste, to exert one's self, endeavour, give diligence." It is also given in the imperative mood which means it is given as a *command*.
2. The word *workman* refers to one who labours diligently, Prov. 2:1-9.

**b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Student**

1. Commendation of God

- a) "To shew thyself approved unto God." – Here is the only realistic motivation for any Bible student.
- b) *Shew thyself* refers to the presentation of ourselves before God.
- c) *Approved* refers to God's acceptance of our diligence toward His Word.
- d) Our motivation for being a student of God's Word should not be to be accepted of our academic peers, or professors of theological seminaries, but rather to be accepted by God. The smile of God upon our study of His Word should be our ultimate drive. This is the only *motivation* that will keep the student on the right path in his study, lest he should fall prey to false doctrine.

**c. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Student**

1. Careful Cutting

- a) "Rightly dividing the word of truth." This is literally "cutting it straight." Just as a carpenter, stone mason, and even Paul's trade of tent-making requires precision so do the workmen of God's Word require accuracy.
- b) Rightly dividing suggests there is a *wrong* way of dividing God's Word. The false teachers which the context speaks of were known for their inaccurate dividing of God's Word. Rightly dividing the Word of truth will keep you from being ashamed when your work is inspected.
- c) We will learn more of the methods of rightly dividing the Bible in upcoming lessons.

**d. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Student**

1. Crucial Commitments

- a) A Right Relationship With God – Jn. 3:3-7; Prov. 28:5
- b) A Right Reliance Upon the Holy Spirit – Jn. 14:26; 1 Jn. 2:20, 26, 27
- c) A Right Respect For The Word of God – Is. 66:2; Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16
  1. "*The student must never put a question mark where God puts a period.*"
- d) A Right Routine in Studying God's Word
  1. Step One – Pray, Ps. 119:18.
    - a. "To pray well is to study well" – Luther
  2. Step Two – Read, 1 Tim. 4:13.
    - a. It takes about 70 hours to read the Bible aloud.
  3. Step Three – Meditate, Josh. 1:8.
  4. Step Four – Study, 2 Tim. 2:15
  5. Step Five – Do, Jn. 7:17
    - a. "*A willingness to do the will of God is not a substitute for, but a condition of, true knowledge.*" Pulpit Commentary

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15*

**Homework:**

- Reading and Quotations: Bible Explorers Guide, J. Phillips – Part 1 – Intro. – Ch. 2
- Memorize 2 Timothy 2:15

