

# Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible



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. - 2 Timothy 2:15



# HERMENEUTICS

## Interpreting and Understanding the Bible

**“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”**

**Nehemiah 8:8**

**“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**



# Introduction

1. This subject and what the Lord has kindly shown us is one of our most valuable treasures, which is saying much in light of seven proofs, five phases, Hebrews, Daniel, Proverbs, etc.
2. We emphasize the men in our church, since God does. Men are to teach wives and children, which is why we are using our monthly men's meetings in 2010 for this topic.
3. We want to discover any future men of God among us, and we want to teach every man to know the word of God to teach his family and give certain words of truth to others.
4. We want our men, young and old, to fulfill I John 2:12-17.
5. For the young men among us, this is a blessed privilege.
6. We are testing new technology to help comprehension and retention, requiring your patience through any difficulties.
7. **There are two outlines – these slides for public presentation, and another detailed outline in paragraph form for study.**
8. It is a work in progress, though much material is prepared, so your contributions and suggestions are welcome.
9. The audience is aged 13-80, thus a slow, careful approach.
10. It is each man's duty to review both outlines and to pray for these meetings that they will meet God's goals for us men.

# Dedication

**“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God,  
be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”**

**I Timothy 1:17**

**“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only  
Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath  
immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto;  
whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and  
power everlasting. Amen.”**

**I Timothy 6:15-16**

***This study is primarily for young men to be strong, to have the Word  
of God abiding in them, to overcome the wicked one, and to have  
the ability, confidence, and wisdom of Ezra and Elihu to give the  
sense of Scripture and the certain words of truth to all those who  
ask, including the wives and children they are to scripturally lead.***

# Hermeneutics in 12 Lessons

## Table of Contents – Page 1

Lesson #1	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
Lesson #2	Large Context - Contradictions Small Context – Master Guide Case Study: Ahaziah's Age Case Study: Revelation 3:20 Case Study: Book of Hebrews
Lesson #3	Comparing Scripture to Scripture Rightly Dividing Scripture Case Study: Salvation Phases
Lesson #4	Grammar Do Commas Matter? What about Thee's and Thou's? Case Study: Salvation Grammar
Lesson #6	Logic and Correct Reasoning Fallacies of Incorrect Reasoning



# Hermeneutics in 12 Lessons

## Table of Contents – Page 2

Lesson #7	Absolute or Relative Texts Jesus or Paul Figures of Speech Ellipsis
Lesson #8	Prophecies Prophetic Language Case Study: 2300 Days
Lesson #9	Argument from Silence Parables and Proverbs Proverbs Babel
Lesson #10	Emphasis of Scripture Subject Chapters Other Minor Rules
Lesson #11	Obstacles to Learning Author of Confusion Bible Study Tools
Lesson #12	Review and Test Lessons Applied Case Study: Wine
Appendices Bibliography	

# Hermeneutics

**Hermeneutics.** The art or science of interpretation, esp. of Scripture. Commonly distinguished from *exegesis* or practical exposition. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Exegesis.** Explanation, exposition (of a sentence, word, etc.); esp. the interpretation of Scripture or a Scriptural passage. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Exposition.** The action of expounding or explaining; interpretation, explanation. Also an instance or mode of this; an explanation, interpretation. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Expound.** To set forth, declare, state in detail (doctrines, ideas, principles; formerly, with wider application). To explain, interpret. To explain (what is difficult or obscure); to state the signification of; to comment on (a passage or an author). [Oxford English Dictionary.]

**Eisegesis.** The interpretation of a word or passage (of the Scriptures) by reading into it one's own ideas. [Oxford English Dictionary.]

# Assumptions

1. God is, and Jehovah only is God.
2. Jehovah God inspired Scripture.
3. Jehovah God preserved Scripture.
4. Scripture is absolute and final truth.
5. Scripture is internally accurate and complete.
6. The King James Version is true Scripture.
7. Faith is necessary to know Scripture and truth.
8. Human wisdom is a hindrance to Scripture and truth.
9. Satan is at war against God, Jesus, Scripture, and truth.
10. Jehovah God will reward diligent seekers.





# Purpose

- 1. Young men strong in the word of God (I John 2:14).**
- 2. Able ministers to teach others also (Ezra 7:6; II Tim 2:2).**
- 3. Able men to teach wives and children (I Cor 14:34-35; Ep 6:4).**
- 4. To save others from lies and heresies (Prov 22:17-21).**
- 5. To obtain God's full reward and blessing (Ps 19:11; Jas 1:25).**
- 6. To know the mysteries of God for His own (I Cor 2:6-13).**
- 7. To best enemies, teachers, ancients (Psalm 119:98-100).**
- 8. To know the will of God for your life (Deut 4:5-8; 29:29).**
- 9. To obtain nourishment of each word for life (Luke 4:4).**
- 10. To learn the way of salvation through Christ (II Tim 3:15).**

# Introduction - 1

1. It is possible to know the Bible in letter and not understand it.
2. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day repeatedly for it.

“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matt 19:13).

“But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless” (Matt 12:7).

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God” (Matt 22:29).

3. He boldly rebuked seminary graduates that fanatically adored the scriptures and read them constantly ... *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)?

4. They read the scriptures constantly, but without understanding!
5. We must strive mightily to avoid such a paradoxical calamity!

# Introduction - 2

6. It is even more popular in our perilous times, when godliness is only a form, much learning is done without truth, and sound doctrine and truth are rejected for fables (II Tim 3:1 – 4:4).
7. It is a common practice to use Bible phrases as sound bites without truly grasping the meaning. The sound is better to most than the sense. Even conservatives like Spurgeon did it.
8. Do you believe the Bible? What do you believe? We must learn as much of it as possible, as thoroughly as possible, to answer.
9. The lack of understanding in Jesus' day caused many horrible heresies regarding Jesus Himself and rightly keeping the Law.
10. The lack of understanding the Bible today leads to even more heresies, which increase geometrically as the pulpit stops rightly dividing scripture and the pew demands a praise band.

# Chaos and Confusion

1. The devil corrupted God's word to deceive Eve (Gen 3:1-6).
2. The devil corrupted God's word to tempt Jesus (Matt 4:5-7).
3. Many in Paul's day were corrupting scripture (II Cor 2:17; 4:2).
4. They wrested scripture to their own destruction (II Pe 3:15-16).
5. Brethren died for these words: "This is my body" (Matt 26:26).
6. The SDA's and JW's both came from folly with Daniel 8:14.
7. The U.S. spends and fights for "holy land," missing Neh 9:7-8.
8. Most are waiting for an abomination of desolation (Mat 24:15).
9. Most have Jesus returning before the Man of Sin (II Thes 2:1-3).
10. Most churches obsess over a finished Commission (Mk 16:19).
11. Revelation 3:20 is bandied about like Alice's Wonderland door!
12. Galatians 5:4 is used to teach many they can lose salvation!
13. Proverbs 20:1 is used to teach abstinence from any alcohol!
14. Acts 2:17-20 is used to justify Benny Hinn's shenanigans!

# Means of Understanding - 1

**“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).**

**So they found what was popular with carnal Christians and the unregenerate, and they computer-searched twenty translations for sound bites to support fleshly ideas of worldly success, and they caused everyone to get excited about a name-it-and-claim-it gospel!**

**So they read in God’s book ... and explained it away with one or two dead languages ... and quoted a lexicon and a commentary and a famous professor, and they caused the people to feel totally intimidated that they would never be as smart as such gods.**

**So they read in God’s book ... just a verse or two ... and then shared jokes, anecdotes, stories, jokes, personal events, songs, a chalk drawing, a few more jokes ... and sent them home after 15 minutes.**

**So they read in God’s book with transcendental piety, and gave the most mystical sense they could imagine, and they caused hearers to believe they had never heard anything so deep and beautiful.**

**So they read in God’s book in Latin, explained it in Latin, and refused to let the people hear anything in their vulgar tongue, and thereby caused them to believe poppycock like a cracker god.**

**So they read in God’s book one word at a time, and gave a primary definition for it, and caused them to understand words they had known since infancy to arrive at a mechanical, literal interpretation.**

# Means of 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.**
- 

- 1. We need a written revelation to read. We have it!**
- 2. We need the ability to read written words. We can do it!**
- 3. We need to distinctly read all the words. We can do it!**
- 4. We need spiritual ability and rules to interpret. We will learn!**
- 5. We need to communicate for understanding. We will learn!**

# What is Reading?

1. God chose to communicate truth to us by written information.
2. Therefore, we must learn to read and read well to comprehend.
3. Some foolishly think the Bible can be read like *Dick and Jane*.
4. Reading is merely and only decoding the written material.
5. The meaning of the words depends on interpretation.
6. Reading gives us the sound of words, interpretation the sense.
7. Children can read Proverbs, but the dark sayings will be words.
8. Reading generally assumes the common meaning of words.
9. We only consider alternative meanings for figurative literature, books beyond the third grade, when the context directs us, a when a literal sense causes a contradiction or an absurdity.
10. Everyone old enough to read knows most common meanings.
11. Primary definitions are common concepts of common people, for they are the ones that determine dictionary definitions.
12. We reject as foolish and dangerous all number schemes, hidden meanings, word patterns, and so forth.

# What is Understanding?

1. Deciphering letters and words and reciting them is not enough.
2. We must gather and absorb the situation, actions, qualities, and ideas being conveyed by the letters and words.
3. We must apprehend meaning and import, or grasp the idea.
4. Islam accepts the drone of Arabic chanting; we want meaning.
5. It is bad if men cannot understand or perceive (Acts 28:23-28).
6. The Jews fulfilled Scripture by not understanding (Acts 13:27).
7. Jesus spoke in parables to hinder understanding (Luke 8:10).
8. Hearing carelessly will cost you your understanding (Lu 8:18).
9. Jesus exhorted to understand what Daniel wrote (Matt 24:15).
10. He damned the Jews for inability to understand (John 8:43-47).
11. Luke and Philip sought understanding (Lu 1:1-4; Ac 8:30-35).
12. Paul limited tongues, due to no understanding (I Cor 14:1-20).
13. Godly ministers seek understanding (II Cor 3:12; 4:2; Col 4:4).
14. Understanding is needed for conversion (Mat 13:15; Ac 28:27).
15. Being without understanding is a sin, when so easy (Ro 1:31).



# **The Need for Understanding**

- 1. The Bible is the only authority for truth in the world (Is 8:20).**
- 2. Our religion, Christianity, is entirely dependent on the Bible.**
- 3. We must seek and see Jesus Christ above all else (John 5:39).**
- 4. The Bible gives us assurance of eternity (I Jn 5:13; II Pet 1:10).**
- 5. The Scriptures are a great heritage (Deut 4:5-10; 6:20-25; etc.).**
- 6. There is great reward in scripture (Ps 19:11; Pr 16:16; Ja 1:25).**
- 7. Paul warned us of lies and liars increasing (II Tim 3:13; 4:1-4).**
- 8. Many people have given up on the Bible due to the confusion.**
- 9. The Bible is an exalted book, so treat it reverently (Ps 138:2).**
- 10. The Bible is a spiritual book, so think beyond sight (I Cor 2:13).**
- 11. The Bible is a prophetic book, so prepare for signs (Hos 12:10).**
- 12. The Bible is a poetic book, so embrace metaphors (Prov 1:6).**
- 13. The Bible is a broad book, so seek all there is (Ps 119:96).**
- 14. The Bible is a blended book, so prepare to divide (II Tim 2:15).**
- 15. The Bible is a rigged book, so study it carefully (II Peter 3:16).**

# What is Interpretation? - 1

1. It is the process of finding the right meaning of written matter.
2. **Interpret.** To expound the meaning of; to render clear or explicit; to elucidate; to explain.
3. **Expound.** Set forth, declare, state in detail. Explain, or interpret.
4. We must steer between mystical art and mechanical science.
5. Rules tend to make interpretation just a mechanical science.
6. Personal qualifications and need of the Spirit make it an art.
7. Rules will work only so far as God blesses the student's effort.
8. Yet expecting God to inspire you without rules is tempting Him.
9. God may translate for us, as part of interpretation (Matt 1:23).
10. God may interpret for us, so we can move ahead (Mark 7:2).
11. Fathers are supposed to interpret scripture to sons (Deut 6:20).
12. Solomon knew proverbs required interpretation (Prov 1:1-6).
13. Jesus interpreted the prophecy of Elijah for some (Matt 11:14).
14. Jesus explained His parables, for the apostles could not grasp.
15. Jesus opened the scriptures to His disciples (Luke 24:27-32).

# **What is Interpretation? - 2**

- 16. The Bible exalts the right interpretation, or explanation, as key.**
- 17. Ministers must rightly divide, or interpret, scripture (II Ti 2:15).**
- 18. Unless there are differences in similar words, why divide?**
- 19. Is there division needed in Exodus 20:13 and Matthew 7:1?**
- 20. Is there division needed in salvation or Israel in the Bible?**
- 21. Peter interpreted Psalm 16:8-11 to show Christ (Acts 2:22-36).**
- 22. Jehoshaphat appointed men to divide the law (II Chron 19:10).**
- 23. The more sure word must be rightly interpreted (II Pe 1:19-21).**
- 24. Paul worked like a lawyer in interpreting of Christ (Ac 17:1-3).**
- 25. The eunuch would not have grasped Isaiah 53 without Philip.**
- 26. The complete sense requires comparing words (I Cor 2:13).**
- 27. Who could rightly apply oxen laws without Paul (I Co 9:8-10)?**
- 28. Nicodemus thought primary definitions sufficient (John 3:4).**
- 29. The gospel has many mysteries known only by interpretation.**
- 30. Paul's epistles require careful interpretation (II Peter 3:15-16).**

# Understanding the Bible – #1

## Read Nehemiah 8:1-18

1. The people came together in unity and peace for profit (1).
2. They had a strong desire to hear and learn Scripture (1).
3. They chose scripture rather than fables or a praise band (1).
4. Ezra was a ready scribe in God's law and did not delay (2).
5. The whole family attended the reading and preaching (2).
6. The people were attentive and focused, not daydreaming (3).
7. Ezra read the scriptures rather than tell jokes and stories (3).
8. He used a pulpit so all the people could see the Book (4).
9. All the people stood to show their reverence for God's word (5).
10. Ezra and the people reverently worshipped God first (6).
11. Ezra's assistants helped interpret rather than entertain (7).
12. They read in God's book rather than Purpose Driven drivel (8).
13. They explained the reading for all the people to grasp it (8).
14. Understanding the sense of scripture calls for celebration (9).

# Understanding the Bible – #1

15. A great reason for a party is understanding scripture (10).
16. It is a holy occasion when we hear and understand God (11).
17. They celebrated joyfully for understanding scripture (12).
18. One day of hearing God's word was not enough for them (13).
19. Understanding scripture taught them a forgotten practice (14).
20. When people come united and willing, God will reveal (15).
21. They readily obeyed the burdensome old commandment (16).
22. Though many had not kept the duty, they did very gladly (17).
23. They wanted to hear the scriptures explained every day (18).
24. They observed God's worship according to the due order (18).

# Understanding the Bible – #2

## Read Matthew 12:1-8

1. The disciples were hungry enough it disrupted the Sabbath (1).
2. The Pharisees were the most conservative Jewish group (2).
3. The Pharisees judged by sight and sound, rather than truth (2).
4. Jesus rebuked their ignorance by raising David's hunger (3).
5. He knew they read the story often, but without meaning (3).
6. He rebuked them for not rightly dividing two passages (4).
7. Jesus condemned the argument from silence by this usage (4).
8. Jesus indirectly commended David's correct hermeneutic (4).
9. He further rebuked them by priestly duties on the Sabbath (5).
10. Of course they read Leviticus, but without understanding (5).
11. Jesus taught an implied sense of Sabbath not for priests (5).
12. They should have recognized Jesus as the Great Interpreter (6).
13. They knew Hosea 6:6, but without good understanding (7).
14. Judging righteously requires a spiritual hermeneutic (7).

# Understanding the Bible – #3

## Read Matthew 22:23-33

1. The Sadducees were a heretical sect denying resurrection (23).
2. They came to ask Him, but their intentions were not noble (23).
3. The hypothetical was to confound, as they had Pharisees (24).
4. They did not know they were attacking the Law's Author (24).
5. Their hypothetical was rhetorical to deny resurrection (25-27).
6. They wrongly assumed that resurrected saints marry (28).
7. Jesus stated their ignorance of scripture and God's power (29).
8. Doctrinal error is still made the same way – missing both (29).
9. Our Lord destroyed their faulty minor premise of marriage (30).
10. He then turned the scriptures against them to prove spirit (31).
11. This was a very popular passage that He asked about (31).
12. God taught them the resurrection, but they had missed it (31).
13. What marvelous interpretation of a verse we breeze over (32).
14. His hermeneutic astonished the assembled crowd (33,39-40).

# Understanding the Bible – #4

## Read Acts 13:27

1. Jews living in the capital fulfilled their scripture by killing Jesus.
2. Even the rulers of the Jews were no wiser, for they led the sin.
3. The Jews were able to do such by misunderstanding scripture.
4. The voices (sound) of scripture they heard, but not the sense.
5. Children of the promises, they ignorantly fulfilled them by sin.
6. This is incredible ignorance, even though they had great technical knowledge of the words.



# **Elihu - 1**

## **Read Job 32:1-22**

- 1. Elihu was a young man who was made great by God's words.**
- 2. He had truth when four wise men had spent themselves (32:1).**
- 3. He was angry at Job for justifying himself over God (32:2).**
- 4. He was angry at Job's friends for ignorant accusations (32:3).**
- 5. He showed respect by waiting for the older four to finish (32:4).**
- 6. He was angry at their inability to defend and justify God (32:5).**
- 7. He explained he waited on their ignorance due to age (32:6).**
- 8. He was not afraid; he expected older men to be wise (32:6-7).**
- 9. He believed God could inspire young men with wisdom (32:8).**
- 10. He learned that great and older men may not be wise (32:9).**
- 11. He told them to listen and he would give his opinion (32:10).**
- 12. He had waited kindly, but they did not honor God (32:11-13).**
- 13. He had listened well to see if they had any answers (32:11-12).**
- 14. He denied their conclusion God was judging Job for sin (32:13).**

# **Elihu - 2**

- 15. He knew he was an outsider, but he had the answers (32:14).**
- 16. The four wise men could say nothing at Elihu's zeal (32:15-16).**
- 17. He told them it was now his turn to give his opinion (32:17).**
- 18. He admitted their folly had filled him with urgency (32:18-20).**
- 19. He told of his spirit demanding he declare the truth (32:18).**
- 20. He was fearless about teaching esteemed hearers (32:21-22).**
- 21. He was convicted flattering titles would be sinful (32:21-22).**

# Every Word of God - 1

“But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I **am** the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine” (Matt 22:31-33).

“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him **Lord**, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions” (Matt 22:41-46).

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I **am**” (John 8:56-58).

“The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are **gods**? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God” (John 10:33-36)?

# Every Word of God - 2

“Now to Abraham and his **seed** were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Gal 3:16).

“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather **are known** of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage” (Gal 4:9).

“In that he saith, A **new** covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away” (Heb 8:13).

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, **Yet once more**, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:25-29).

# 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.

1. Men are first born dead to God and truth (Gen 2:17; Eph 2:1-3).
2. Naturally intelligent, man never thinks about God (Rom 3:11).
3. A man without faith from God is unreasonable (II Thess 3:2).
4. He will choose lies over truth in spiritual matters (John 8:45).
5. God powerfully blinds such men to believe lies (II Thes 2:9-12).
6. The natural man cannot know the things of God (I Cor 2:14).
7. The gospel – good news – is foolishness to such (I Cor 1:18).
8. God must give ability to see, hear, and understand (John 8:47).
9. Before regeneration, he cannot see God's kingdom (John 3:3).
10. The mind of Christ belongs to the regenerate (I Cor 2:15-16).
11. Regeneration gives such men internal knowledge (John 6:45).
12. Presentation of truth is for the regenerate elect (II Tim 2:10).
13. Many are not born again, so they are ignorant (II Cor 4:3-4).
14. The Bible, the spiritual book of God's Spirit, is closed to natural men, regardless of ability, intelligence, rules, or efforts.

# Personal Qualifications #2

## You must be enlightened by the Spirit.

1. Though born again, a man has flesh (Rom 8:7-8; Gal 5:17).
2. The apostles, born again, needed the Spirit (Luke 24:45).
3. Paul prayed for the Spirit for understanding (Eph 1:17-18).
4. Full knowledge of Jesus is by the Spirit's might (Ep 3:14-19).
5. A grieved Spirit can remove understanding (Isaiah 63:10).
6. God may assist learning by special means (Job 33:14-16).
7. The Spirit of God can provide an unction (I John 2:20,27).
8. God must open minds for you to understand (Is 29:10-12).

# Personal Qualifications #3

## You must fear God to even start learning.

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Pr 1:7; 9:10).
2. Proper reasoning begins with God as First Cause (II Thess 3:2).
3. Circular reasoning or not, it must begin with God (Heb 11:6).
4. Fearing God is to love and please Him reverently (Deut 10:12).
5. Fearing God is to hate and leave off evil (Job 28:28; Pr 8:13).
6. A man must come to God trembling before Him (Is 66:1-2).
7. The fear of man brings a snare for compromise (Prov 29:25).
8. Great men are not always wise, as Elihu learned (Job 32:9).
9. Loving anyone over Christ is to fail as a disciple (Jo 12:42-43).
10. God Himself will instruct the man fearing Him (Ps 25:12-14).
11. He will confuse those who with mere lip service (Is 29:13-14).
12. Carnal Christians cannot learn available truth (I Cor 3:1-2).



# Personal Qualifications #4

**You must delight in God to obtain His favor.**

1. Delighting in God is important enough for listing (Acts 13:22).
2. God's blessing is on those who delight in Him (Psalm 37:4).
3. Note the worship of God before great understanding (Neh 8:6).
4. The value of God's favor is important (II Sam 12:24; Dan 9:23).
5. God seeks men who will glory in Him over all else (Je 9:23-24).
6. Is your meditation on God a glad and sweet thing (Ps 104:34)?
7. Acquaint yourself with God for the good it brings (Job 22:21).

# Personal Qualifications #5

## You must obey and apply all learning.

1. David knew more than ancients by obedience (Ps 119:100).
2. Daniel knew the need to turn from sin for truth (Dan 9:13).
3. Doing God's will is the condition for knowing doctrine (Jn 7:17).
4. Disobedience will bring a loss of understanding (Luke 8:18).
5. God hates hypocrites and will judge them (Job 20:4-29).
6. God hates scorners and will judge them (Isaiah 29:20-21).
7. Disregard of instruction will bring blindness (II Thess 2:9-12).
8. Greater knowledge requires greater obedience (Lu 12:47-48).
9. More light requires a just man moving forward (Prov 4:18).
10. Taking the yoke of Christ and learning go together (Mat 11:29).

# Personal Qualifications #6

## You must ask in prayer for knowledge.

1. God has purposed to operate in areas by prayer (James 4:2).
2. God specifically tells us that wisdom is by asking (James 1:5).
3. We must ask in faith, or plan on receiving nothing (Jas 1:6-7).
4. God gave wisdom to Solomon, so let us also ask (I Kgs 3:5-14).
5. Daniel prayed for wisdom and got it (Da 2:18; 9:13; 10:10-14).
6. Observe proper motives for wisdom (Ps 119:26-27,34,73,125).
7. Emulate David's request for God to open his eyes (Ps 119:18).
8. Recall Paul's prayer for Ephesus to learn things (Eph 1:17-18).

# Personal Qualifications #7

## You must seek for understanding to obtain it.

1. You must apply yourself as Solomon clearly taught (Pr 2:1-9).
2. You must “receive” God’s word – do not reject it (Hosea 4:6).
3. You must “hide” God’s word – retain learning (Hebrews 2:1-3).
4. You must “incline” your ear – listen submissively (Prov 1:5).
5. You must “apply thine heart” – give it your all (Proverbs 18:1).
6. You must “cry” for it loudly – beg God for truth (Psalm 119:18).
7. You must “search” diligently – let nothing deter you (Je 29:13).
8. By these rules, you will find knowledge and every good path.
9. Approach it like a minister (I Timothy 4:13-16; II Timothy 2:15).
10. You must love and seek it (Prov 8:17; 15:14; Acts 17:11-12).
11. Solomon and Jesus exhorted treasure hunting (Mat 13:44-46).

# Personal Qualifications #8

## You must accept correction and instruction.

1. Scripture is to teach, reprove, correct, instruct (II Timothy 3:16).
2. Receiving reproof is key (Pr 6:23; 9:7-9; 12:1; 14:6; 15:31-32).
3. God will resist the proud and cause them to fall (James 4:6).
4. Progress requires change, and change requires correction.
5. You must accept strongholds being ripped down (II Cor 10:4-6).
6. Do not ever despise prophesying – or preaching (I Thess 5:20).
7. God rewards the humble, like Solomon (Matt 11:25; Jas 4:6).
8. God despises human arrogance and wisdom (I Cor 1:17-29).
9. If you think yourself wise, you are in trouble (I Cor 3:18-19).
10. God will find and bless the poor in spirit (Is 66:1-2; Matt 5:3).
11. David humbly told the Lord about high matters (Psalm 131:1).

# Personal Qualifications #9

## You must have godly and noble motives.

1. You want to learn about God to glory in Him (Jer 9:23-24).
2. You want to learn about Jesus to glorify Him (Luke 10:38-42).
3. You want to learn and lay hold of eternal life (Jn 5:39; 20:31).
4. You want to learn God's law to observe (De 29:29; Ps 119:34).
5. You want to be able to teach others the truth (Prov 22:17-21).
6. You want to be able to try teachers and teachings (Ac 17:11).
7. You want to learn agreeable to charity (I Cor 8:1-2; 13:1-3).
8. You do not want to learn to justify your thoughts (Prov 18:2).
9. You must love the word of God in word and deed (Ps 19:7-11).
10. Does God know you highly prize His word (Ps 119:14,47)?

# Personal Qualifications #10

## You need to use your God-given teachers.

1. God gave gifts to men to teach others (Ps 68:18; Eph 4:8-13).
2. They must have some ability, or what is the gift (I Pe 4:10-11)?
3. They must have the Spirit, or he should quit (De 34:9; II Ti 1:7).
4. They apply the ability and Spirit in full-time labor (I Ti 4:13-16).
5. The Bible instructs men to seek to them (Jer 3:15; Mal 2:7).
6. With Scripture, the man of God can perfect you (II Ti 3:16-17).
7. Therefore, they should be valued for the work (I Thes 5:12-13).
8. God can bring the right man at the right time (Acts 8:26-31).
9. His sovereign providence works all such things for your profit.
10. Elihu was not with Job and his friends by accident (Job 33:1-6).
11. God is able to move your pastor for your every unspoken need.
12. You are to follow his faith, unless unscriptural (Heb 13:7,17).

# **Hermeneutics**

## **Lesson Two**

**Review of Lesson One**

**Large Context – No Contradictions**

**Small Context – Master Guide**

**Case Study: Ahaziah's Age**

**Case Study: Revelation 3:20**

**Case Study: Book of Hebrews**



# **Review of 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**

# Large Context – No Contradictions (1)

## II Peter 1:

**19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

**20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

**21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- 1.** We assume the Bible is surer than God's voice from heaven.
- 2.** Because it was directly inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Tim 3:16).

# **Large Context – No Contradictions (2)**

**“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.**

# **Large Context – No Contradictions (3)**

**“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar ...”  
Romans 3:4**

- 1. We start all interpretation with the axiom of God’s truthfulness.**
- 2. Any contradiction we hear or discover makes them or us a liar.**
- 3. We start from the premise that scripture is perfectly correct.**
- 4. Interpretation finds the solution(s) exalting God’s truthfulness.**
- 5. Any contradictions remaining are owned as our fault, not His.**

# **Large Context – No Contradictions (4)**

## **Proverbs 8:**

**7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.**

**8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.**

**9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.**

- 1. There is nothing untrue, froward, or perverse in God's word.**
- 2. Knowledge and understanding will prove them plain and right.**

# Large Context – No Contradictions (5)

**“If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken ...”**

**John 10:35**

- 1. Jesus said that scripture cannot be broken – in that every word may be confidently trusted without fear of contradiction.**
- 2. We use this verse as an example of arguing individual words.**
- 3. No matter what we find in scripture, we trust it to be fully true.**
- 4. Anything that looks like a contradiction is our fault, not His.**



# **Large Context – No Contradictions (6)**

**“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.”**

**I John 2:21**

- 1. The truth is just that ... the truth! It cannot contain a lie.**
- 2. God’s word is truth ... and it does not contain a single lie.**
- 3. What appears to be a lie is just that – an apparition to you!**
- 4. It is our job as interpreters to reconcile apparent lies.**
- 5. Of course, we cannot help the NIV with Goliath or Mark 1:2.**

# **Large Context – No Contradictions (7)**

**“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.**



# Large Context – No Contradictions (8)

## Why is this our first rule?

1. Because we are told it is the first rule in II Pet 1:20! Believe it.
2. Study of a text should be limited to the realm of possibilities.
3. If we do not start with this rule, the possible senses are infinite!
4. The single greatest restraint on misinterpretation is this rule.
5. This rule used first will limit possible senses for the other rules.

# Large Context – No Contradictions (9)

## What can happen if we decide to neglect this rule?

1. We might justify sodomy and turn these two heroes of the faith into faggot lovers by misinterpreting II Samuel 1:26.
2. We might become British-Israelites with an anti-Semitic fantasy that the devil had sex with Eve by John 8:44.
3. We might rekindle the fire of the Temperance Movement by reading Deuteronomy 29:6; Proverbs 20:1; or Proverbs 23:31.

# Large Context – No Contradictions (10)

## How do we apply this first rule of interpretation?

1. All texts pertaining to a subject must be reconciled. We must not value some over others, like Martin Luther rejecting James.
2. Follow a two-step approach to interpretation by first ruling out what a verse cannot mean in light of the rest of scripture, and only then worry about the rules to find its positive sense.
3. Reject a dishonest tendency to choose only scriptures agreeing with your presuppositions, which is the direct road to heresy. It is the combined message of scripture that is the truth.

# Large Context – No Contradictions (11)

**Consider examples of the neglect of this rule to teach heresy.**

1. Genesis 15:18-21 cannot teach that God owes land to Israel!
2. Acts 22:16 cannot teach baptismal regeneration of Saul!
3. Luke 2:48 cannot teach that Joseph was Jesus' father!
4. I Corinthians 15:29 cannot teach baptism for dead relatives!
5. Galatians 5:4 cannot teach that you can lose eternal life!
6. I John 2:27 cannot teach that teachers are unnecessary!

# Large Context – No Contradictions (12)

**This rule can be ignored and abused even worse.**

1. Never take a private interpretation and wrest scripture to fit.
2. Baptismal regenerationists assume the heresy from Ac 22:16 and then change filth of flesh to dirt of body in I Pet 3:21.
3. Those who believe baptismal church membership from Acts 2:41 will force the Ethiopian eunuch into the Jerusalem church.
4. Those obsessed with God's love for all men will alter Rom 9:13 to mean that God just loved Esau a little less than Jacob.

# Large Context – No Contradictions (13)

## Are there any problems with applying this rule?

1. It takes knowing the whole Bible for right presuppositions!
2. All verses on a given subject must be honestly considered.
3. There are sufficient obstacles in scripture to save inquiring minds that practice this rule humbly and consistently.
4. God's providence will save those with personal qualifications and a humble approach by sending an Elihu or Philip.
5. Consider the example of God saving us from foot washing.

# **Large Context – No Contradictions (14)**

- 1. All we have learned so far is what a verse cannot mean!**
- 2. But it also limited our field of study to possible interpretations!**
- 3. With the possibilities greatly reduced, the other rules will give us the positive sense of the verse or passage under study.**
- 4. Do not forget this first rule of interpretation from II Peter 1:20!**
- 5. It teaches us the context of the whole Bible, so now it is time to consider the second rule, the smaller context of a verse.**

# Small Context – Master Guide (1)

**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.



# **Small Context – Master Guide (2)**

## **A text used out of context is a pretext!**

- 1. Therefore, we have made it our second most important rule.**
- 2. All writings of all kinds depend on context to provide meaning.**
- 3. Single words are worthless without context e.g. a spelling bee!**
- 4. You have had your words used out of context, and you hated it.**
- 5. A verse outside its intent is the sound of a lie from the Bible!**
- 6. Using the wrong verse for a true point is the first step to heresy.**

# Small Context – Master Guide (3)

## What is context (1)?

- 1. Context.** The whole structure of a connected passage regarded in its bearing upon any of the parts which constitute it; the parts which immediately precede or follow any particular passage or 'text' and determine its meaning. [OED]
- 2. Context** is surrounding information that tells what an author means by individual words, sentences, or paragraphs within a passage. Without grasping the author's viewpoint and intent, we will face words and turns of phrase that we will confuse.

# Small Context – Master Guide (4)

## What is context (2)?

3. Every word in the Bible is part of a verse, every verse part of a paragraph, every paragraph part of a chapter, every chapter part of a book, and every book part of the whole Bible. We cannot and must not isolate single words and sentences.
4. Your own words have been used out of context. A single word, sentence, or document was singled out and given a meaning that did not agree with all the words, expressions, tones, circumstances, audience, acts, or facts surrounding it. You were offended, and so is the Lord when we abuse His word!

# Small Context – Master Guide (5)

## What is context (3)?

5. Isolating individual words or verses is like giving an impression of a Rembrandt from looking at one square inch of it or of Handel's "Messiah" by listening to a few bars!
6. If you hear me say, "I beat my wife last night," please inquire further than the word "beat" and this one sentence to find out what I actually did to her! We played monopoly!
7. Can you believe some will take Proverbs 25:11 and say that text determines context? God forbid!

# Small Context – Master Guide (6)

## What is context (4)?

- 8. It is a shame much preaching today uses words and verses as mantras, mottos, or sound bites without regard to their context.**
- 9. The Bible says, Judas “went and hanged himself” (Matt 27:5).**
- 10. The Bible has Jesus, “Go, and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37).**
- 11. The Bible has Jesus, “That thou doest, do quickly” (Jn 13:27).**
- 12. Here are Bible verses to quickly go out and hang ourselves!**

# Small Context – Master Guide (7)

## How do I remember context?

1. Ask ... Who, Whom, Why, When, What, and Where?
2. Who? ... can solve the heresies coming from Daniel 3:25.
3. Whom? ... in Lev 10:9; Mark 16:15-18; Jas 5:20; II Pet 3:9.
4. Why? ... in Mal 2:16; Matt 7:1; Luke 10:29-37; Gal 1:15.
5. When? ... in Matt 23:1-3; Acts 2:20,40; 15:20; Rev 17:18.
6. What? ... Song of Solomon; Luke 16:1-8; Daniel; Revelation.
7. Where? ... Acts 15:1-2.

# Small Context – Master Guide (8)

## Examples of heresy by missing context.

1. The shaking of Hag 2:6-7 is long past just by reading about the thing in context ... Zerubbabel's temple, destroyed in 70 A.D.
2. Jesus', "But I say unto you," in Matthew 5 is not a new, milder religion, but rather a correction of Pharisee modifications.
3. Falling from grace in Gal 5:4 is falling from truth in the context.
4. Who in the world can get the Bible out of Hebrews 4:12?
5. What are the temples of God in I Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19?

# Small Context – Master Guide (9)

## Examples of greater glory from the context.

1. The words, “more sure,” take on added value when understood from the context of God’s voice in II Peter 1:16-19.
2. Charity means much more when we understand its superiority to the greatest gifts of the N.T. from I Cor 12:28-31.
3. The practical exhortations of Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 4:1 take on more weight in light of “therefore” and “Amen.”



# Small Context – Master Guide (10)

## Examples of pronouns and antecedents.

1. What is the antecedent of the plural pronouns in Ps 105:37?
2. Did Baasha kill Jeroboam (I Kgs 16:7)? Or Nadab (15:25-28)?
3. Did the commandments of God persecute David (Ps 119:86)?
4. Did the centurion or his sick servant send for Jesus (Lu 7:1-3)?
5. What was ever with David (Ps 119:98)?

# Small Context – Master Guide (11)

## Examples of persons, things not readily identified.

1. What is your favorite aspect of the Bible from Heb 4:12?
2. What did Jesus bring in with Israel's father (Acts 7:45)?
3. Why did Jesus not give His people rest (Heb 4:8)?
4. Where is the city of Ariel (Isaiah 29:1-2,8)?
5. When will David rule Israel again (Jer 30:9; Hos 3:5)?
6. When did you last pray to Jacob (Psalm 24:6)?

# Small Context – Master Guide (12)

**Consider “prophetic perspective” of future tense verbs.**

1. When prophecies are quoted later with their future tense verbs intact, the event may already be past! Grasp this thoroughly!
2. Charismatics love, “I will pour out of my Spirit ...” in Ac 2:17-21.
3. Scofield loved, “I will ... build again ... of David” (Acts 15:16-17).
4. What about a new covenant for Israel (Hebrews 8:8-12)?
5. What about God shaking the heavens and earth (Heb 12:26)?



# Small Context – Master Guide (13)

**Consider examples of context determining grammar.**

1. Remember our study of genitive phrases and the need to find subjective or objective senses by context (Luke 11:42; I Tim 3:6; Dan 11:37; John 6:39; Acts 2:38; Rom 2:29).
2. What about ellipses (Matt 14:19; Prov 18:22; 20:16)?
3. What about irony (Mal 1:9; Josh 24:19; Ezek 20:39)?
4. What about metaphors (I Cor 11:24)?
5. Much more is yet to come about figures of speech.

# **Small Context – Master Guide (14)**

- 1. How did Adam “know” Eve his wife (Genesis 4:1)?**
- 2. Why must Christians not sell dogs and tithe it (Deut 23:18)?**
- 3. What does Proverbs 23:29 condemn? Fighting? Football?**
- 4. Why did Job not think about his female servants (Job 31:1)?**
- 5. Does I Corinthians 6:19-20 condemn smoking or tattoos?**
- 6. Does Acts 2:38 teach the Spirit giving church membership?**

# **Small Context – Master Guide (15)**

- 7. Does Psalm 150:4 justify the use of organs in worship?**
- 8. When will the Day of the Lord of Isaiah 13:6 take place?**
- 9. When will the Day of the Lord of Joel 2:31 take place?**
- 10. Does II Peter 3:9 teach that God does not want any to perish?**
- 11. Does Matthew 24:13 teach perseverance of the saints?**
- 12. Does Luke 21:33 teach the preservation of scripture?**

# Case Study: Ahaziah's Age (1)

**“Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.”**

**II Kings 8:26**

**“Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.”**

**II Chronicles 22:2**

# Case Study: Ahaziah's Age (2)

## Matthew 1:

**7 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;**

**8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;**

**What happened to Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah?**

***They belong between Joram (Jehoram) and Ozias (Uzziah).***



## **Case Study: Ahaziah's Age (3)**

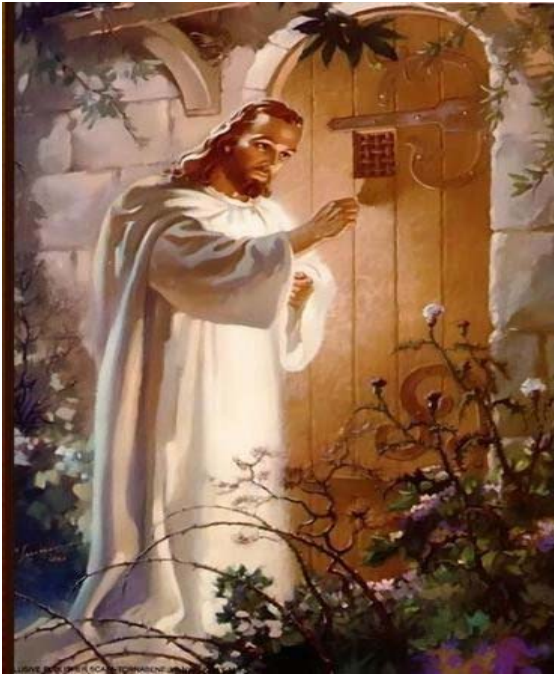
- 1. By rejecting a contradiction (rule #1) and studying the context (rule #2) about Ahaziah, we learn wonderful truth.**
- 2. Ahaziah was 22 years old biologically when he became king.**
- 3. Ahaziah was 42 years old in the profane Israelite kingdom of Omri, showing that God identified him with Ahab, not David.**
- 4. God fulfilled His judgment on the second, third, and fourth generations of Jehoshaphat's wicked affinity with Ahab.**
- 5. Here is special wisdom that cannot be learned in seminary or found in any modern version of the Bible ... all by context!**

# Case Study: Ahaziah's Age (4)

For a detailed and wonderful study about Ahaziah's age, the wonderful truth it reveals and explains, and the confusion it created for scholars and their perversions of the Bible, see:

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/scripture/ahaziah-contradiction.pdf>

# Case Study: Revelation 3:20 (1)



# **Case Study: Revelation 3:20 (2)**

**“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”**

## **Revelation 3:20**

- 1. You have seen the effeminate, John Lennon look-alike picture that Catholics fantasize about from this verse.**
- 2. This verse is offered like cheap candy about a million times every Sunday to get reprobates to decide for Jesus.**

# **Case Study: Revelation 3:20 (3)**

- 1. Jesus does not look anything like the hermaphrodite they draw.**
- 2. Jesus does not knock at the door of depraved sinners to save.**
- 3. These words were said to the saved of the church of Laodicea.**
- 4. The blessing Jesus offered was fellowship, not eternal life.**
- 5. How do we know this against 99% of Christians? By context!**

# Case Study: Revelation 3:20 (4)

For a detailed and wonderful study about this most abused verse, the wonderful truth it reveals and explains, and the confusion it creates for soul-winning but Bible-denying evangelists, see:

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/heresies/revelation-3-20-reclaimed.htm>

# Case Study: Hebrews (1)

## Hebrews 6:

- 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,  
5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,  
6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

## Hebrews 10:

- 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,  
27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

# **Case Study: Hebrews (2)**

- 1. These are two of the most difficult passages in Hebrews.**
- 2. Arminians use them to teach you can lose your salvation.**
- 3. Calvinists use them to address reprobate false professors.**
- 4. Others create a hypothetical situation that benefits no one.**
- 5. What is the true interpretation of these irremediable warnings?**
- 6. What is the Bible study rule to help us find the interpretation.**



# Case Study: Hebrews (3)

1. There are four irremediable passages, add 2:1-4 and 12:25-29.
2. We know eternal life cannot be lost by virtue of our rule #1.
3. God gave away the solution with the title of the book! **Whom!**
4. Paul wrote Jewish saints to warn against backsliding to Moses.
5. He wrote before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.! **When!**
6. The irremediable judgment was Israel's destruction, which would fall on any of these believers backsliding to temple rites.
7. We learn the true sense by using rule #2, the smaller context.

# Case Study: Hebrews (4)

For a detailed and wonderful study about these abused passages in Hebrews, the wonderful truth they reveal and explain, and the confusion they create for those unable to think outside commentaries, see:

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/hebrews-exposition-1988.pdf>

# **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 correct 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 prophecy 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.letgodbetrue.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.letgodbettrue.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](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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 99<sup>th</sup> 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.

# **Hermeneutics**

## **Lesson Four**

### **Review of Lessons One through Three**

#### **Grammar**

**Case Study: Thee's and Thou's**

**Case Study: Do Commas Matter?**

**Case Study: Genitive Phrases**

**Case Study: Grammar of Regeneration**

# **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 generally 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 correct 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).**

# **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?**

# **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.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/every-word-of-god.pdf>.**
- 10. For more on this passage ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/mysteries-of-hidden-wisdom.pdf>.**



# 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.**

# **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.**

# 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.**

# Obey the Rules of Grammar - 1

1. **God chose to communicate with written language.**
2. **To rightly understand language, you must follow rules of language.**
3. **Grammar.** That department of the study of a language which deals with its inflexional forms or other means of indicating the relations of words in the sentence, and with the rules of employing these in accordance with established usage. The science which analyzes those distinctions in thought, which it is the purpose of grammatical forms more or less completely to render in expression. [OED]
4. **Grammar includes verb person, number, tenses, mood, voice, etc.**
5. **Reading is necessary to know the Bible, and so are rules of grammar.**
6. **You understand most grammar by usage without technical knowledge.**

# **Obey the Rules of Grammar - 2**

- 7. It is hardly a rule of interpretation, for it is a rule of reading; but we must include it, for the Bible illustrates it and assumes it for doctrine.**
- 8. Most use the Bible for sound bites rather than the rules for its sense.**
- 9. Once you start changing the words, the word connections matter little.**
- 10. It would serve you well to own a college handbook of English grammar.**
- 11. This study here only introduces you to basic grammar and its effects.**
- 12. You will be accused of a nit-picking method of interpretation, unless you can remember the Bible's examples to prove the method.**

# **Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 1**

**“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”**

**Galatians 3:16**

- 1. Our great apostle argued from the number of a noun – seed vs. seeds.**
- 2. The primary object of the promises is found in Christ, not the Jews.**
- 3. It is true ... every promises was to his “seed” from Genesis 12:7 to 24:7.**
- 4. We are the true seed of Abraham and heirs of the promise (Gal 3:29).**
- 5. Modern Bible versions corrupt the O.T. to say “descendants.”**

# **Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 2**

**“But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”**

**Galatians 4:9**

- 1. Paul changed the verb voice from active to passive to make a point.**
- 2. Salvation by the Arminian scheme depends on you knowing God.**
- 3. God knowing us is greater (Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:6; II Tim 2:19).**
- 4. If the key issue is knowing God, why chase Him by law bondage?**



# Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 3

**“I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”**

**Matthew 22:32**

- 1. Jesus argued a very important point of doctrine from a verb's tense.**
- 2. The Sadducees, educated grammarians, denied spirit and resurrection.**
- 3. Jesus proved resurrection of the dead by the present tense verb regarding Abraham spoken to Moses 300 years after his death (Ex 3:6).**
- 4. For the skeptics you meet, Jesus used the *italicized* word in Ex 3:6!**

# **Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 4**

**“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”**

**John 8:58**

- 1. Jesus argued for His deity against the Jews by the tense of a verb.**
- 2. Limited by the Jews to 50 years of life, Jesus argued for eternity!**
- 3. He did not say, “Before Abraham was, I was.” He went much further!**
- 4. He used the sacred present tense God had used with Moses.**
- 5. The Jews knew the implication, for they tried to stone Him.**

# **Bible Examples of Grammar for Doctrine - 5**

**“(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.**

## **Romans 4:17**

- 1. Paul recognized a verb tense “error” and used it to glorify God.**
- 2. God told Abraham he had (past tense) made him a father of many nations, when he only had Ishmael (one nation) for a son.**
- 3. Some modern Bibles correct the verb tense “error” in Genesis 17:5.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 1**

**“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

**John 3:13**

- 1. Poor Nicodemus ... and doctorate degree had not helped him much.**
- 2. Our Lord first told Nicodemus that He had come down from heaven.**
- 3. He then added that He was still in heaven ... for the man to consider.**
- 4. Modern translations profanely delete this glorious little phrase.**
- 5. An angel might come down, but only Jehovah Himself is omnipresent!**

## **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 2**

**“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).**

- 1. John used several verb tenses here, but he taught regeneration by God.**
- 2. Those who “believe” (present tense) “were born” (past tense). Amen!**
- 3. Only this construction and understanding agrees with the facts of 1:13.**
- 4. “Received him” is past tense to continue the historical mode of 1:11.**
- 5. John quickly changed from historical to present tense by “even.”**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 3**

**“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”**

**I Corinthians 1:18**

- 1. The gospel benefits those already saved ... election, regeneration, etc.**
- 2. Only those who “are saved” (perfect tense, passive voice) can profit.**
- 3. Those perishing do not profit from it; it is foolishness to them.**
- 4. The use of verbs – a perfect tense “are” and present tense “is” shows that salvation occurred prior to receiving the gospel as God’s power.**
- 5. God must call (choose and/or regenerate) before the gospel (1:22-24).**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 4**

**“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”**

**Ephesians 1:6**

- 1. Paul taught definitively right here that our salvation depended on God accepting us through Christ, not us accepting God or Jesus Christ.**
- 2. This is the voice of the verb to accept ... is man active in the accepting, or is man passive in being accepted by another? Man is passive!**
- 3. The religious world hollers and manipulates to get sinners to accept!**
- 4. But this acceptation is something God makes happen for His glory!**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 5**

**“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”**

**Ephesians 5:4**

- 1. Paul proved all foolish talking and jesting are sins by a verb’s number.**
- 2. Some have taken the liberty to justify “convenient jesting” by limiting this text’s condemnation only to jesting that is not convenient.**
- 3. But the plural verb “are” proves that Paul considered all three sins – filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting to be inconvenient.**
- 4. To justify jesting in any sense, you will need to look elsewhere.**



# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 6**

**“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Romans 8:30).**

- 1. Paul argued for certainty of glorification by the past tense “glorified.”**
- 2. We view this “error” in a verb tense as the inspired wisdom of 4:17.**
- 3. We believe we are foreknown, predestinated, called, and justified.**
- 4. We should also believe our glorification is definitely as certain.**
- 5. If we love God (8:28), God’s purpose guarantees our glorification!**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 7**

**“And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”**

**Acts 13:39**

- 1. Paul argued that justification precedes faith in a good justification text.**
- 2. All that believe (plural, present) are justified (plural, perfect). Glory!**
- 3. Paul further confirmed the fact by describing it “by him,” that is Christ.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 8**

**“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”**

**Acts 10:34-35**

- 1. Paul explained to Cornelius that God had already accepted him.**
- 2. He that feareth him (singular, present) is accepted (singular, perfect).**
- 3. He that worketh (singular, present) is accepted (singular, perfect).**
- 4. We know fear and works follow grace (Rom 3:18; I John 2:29; 3:7,10).**
- 5. Being accepted with God through Jesus Christ is the key (Eph 1:6).**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 9**

**“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him” (Mark 16:1).**

**“And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56).**

- 1. We believe three days and three nights by reading the scriptures.**
- 2. But here the women were working after a Sabbath and before one.**
- 3. The first Sabbath was the Passover, the other Sabbath the weekly.**
- 4. The women used the open day between the two to do their work.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 10**

**“And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”**

**Revelation 2:27**

- 1. We are not waiting for Jesus to become king and rule with a rod or iron.**
- 2. He received the rod of iron rule (past tense) from His Father already.**
- 3. We read Psalm 2 and know it was fulfilled at our Lord’s first coming and His resurrection (Acts 13:33; Rom 1:4; Heb 1:4-5).**
- 4. We are not looking for some Jewish millennium in the future.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 11**

**“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”**

**I Timothy 1:12**

- 1. God counted Paul faithful before conversion by virtue of verb tenses.**
- 2. The coordinating conjunction “for” gives Paul’s faithfulness as a factor.**
- 3. God measured Paul according to his knowledge, which was unbelief.**
- 4. He claimed late in life he served God with a pure conscience (Ac 23:1).**
- 5. The testimony of the Holy Spirit regarding Asa confirms (I Kings 15:14).**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 12**

**“Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value.”**

**Matthew 27:9**

- 1. We make hay with Mark 1:2 and its flagrant error in modern versions.**
- 2. But the King James gives Jeremiah credit for this text, and there is no such quotation to be found in the book of Jeremiah. Are we hypocrites?**
- 3. The quotation is in Zechariah 11:12-13 instead! Are we hypocrites?**
- 4. Zechariah *wrote* what Jeremiah *spoke* and tells us so (Zec 1:4; 7:7,12).**

# Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 13

Remember the *prophetic perspective* that uses future tense verbs in N.T. quotations of O.T. prophets that were already fulfilled or being fulfilled.

1. Acts 2:17-21 was future to Joel, not to Peter. It happened at Pentecost.
2. Acts 15:16-17 was future to Amos, not to James. It happened with Paul.
3. Romans 11:26-27 was future to Isaiah, not to Paul. Christ fulfilled it.
4. Hebrews 8:8-12 was future to Jeremiah, not to Paul. Christ fulfilled it.
5. Hebrews 12:26 was future to Haggai, not to Paul. Christ fulfilled it.



# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 14**

**“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”**

**Acts 2:41**

- 1. Some teach that baptism and membership are simultaneous here.**
- 2. “Then” is a conjunctive adverb that connects the independent clause of 2:40 with the first and only the first dependent clause of 2:41.**
- 3. The two independent clauses of 2:41 have different time frames.**
- 4. The two independent clauses of 2:41 have two distinct subjects.**
- 5. The colon between the clauses is next to the period in disconnection.**
- 6. The coordinating conjunction “and” connects subsequent actions.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 15**

**“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (I Pet 3:18-20).**

- 1. Long and complicated sentences must fit the doctrine of scripture.**
- 2. Jesus went by His Spirit and preached to spirits now in prison.**
- 3. But they were not in prison when they disobeyed before the Flood.**
- 4. But they were not in prison when Noah preached to them (II Pet 2:5).**
- 5. We reject the Apostles’ Creed that Jesus descended into hell, for He committed His spirit into the hands of God, not to the prison warden!**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 16**

**“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).**

- 1. This verse is short, but it has five consecutive prepositional phrases.**
- 2. Men will preach about the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world!**
- 3. But the word “slain” is a participial adjective simply modifying Lamb.**
- 4. The preposition “from,” as prepositions do, tells us at what time the names were not written in the book.**
- 5. We confirm our doctrine by comparing Revelation 17:8 and Gal 4:4.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 17**

**Use Psalm 105 for an exercise in pronouns and antecedents.**

- 1. In 105:36, what is the antecedent of “their”? Egypt and Ham from 23,27.**
- 2. In 105:37, what is the antecedent of “them”? Israel from back in 23.**
- 3. In 105:28, what is the antecedent of “they”? Who did not rebel?**

**Daniel 11 has intriguing pronouns clarified only by context and history.**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 18**

**“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood” (Galatians 1:15-16).**

- 1. Some teach from here that Paul was regenerated at time of birth.**
- 2. It is a nice thought, but there is no way to prove it grammatically.**
- 3. Commas set off two non-restrictive phrases unrelated to each other.**
- 4. Both describe God’s calling of Paul to the ministry (Jer 1:5; Rom 1:1).**

# **Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 19**

**“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).**

- 1. This is the favorite of the Campbellites to prove baptismal salvation.**
- 2. Some defend that “anointed” may be substituted for Christ to read, “baptism in the name of Jesus anointed for the remission of sins.”**
- 3. But Jesus Christ is a noun, so a participial adjective cannot be inserted.**
- 4. But the preposition “for” modifies baptism, not the invented adjective.**
- 5. We know the preposition “for” means “in testimony of,” as proven by I Peter 3:21, and illustrated by Mark 1:40-44.**

# Bible Applications of Grammar for Doctrine – 20

1. *Italics* are used to identify something unusual about the use of a word.
2. The King James Version has *italics* for interpolated words in translation.
3. One of A.W. Pink's rules for interpretation is to ignore *italicized* words.
4. Jesus used italicized words (Matt 22:32 cp Ex 3:6; Matt 4:4 cp Deut 8:8).
5. Peter also used the italicized words (Acts 2:25 cp Psalm 16:8).
6. Who did killed Goliath in II Samuel 21:19 according to Mr. Pink?

# Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (1)

1. Men ridicule the King James Version for its *thee's* and *thou's*.
2. New Bibles are published excitedly without any *thee's* and *thou's*.
3. If jots and tittles are important (Matt 5:18), surely pronouns are as well.
4. Your King James was written in High English, unspoken since about 1300 and not used by the translators in their preface and dedication.
5. Thee's and thou's are needed for accurate second person identification.
6. Thee's and thou's provide a reverence in speech unknown today.
7. They whine about the “originals,” but it takes *thee's* and *thou's* to match the second person pronouns in Hebrew and Greek.



# Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (2)

1. Second person pronouns in modern English are *you*, *your*, and *yours*.
2. You cannot tell if one or more persons are referenced by the pronouns.
3. But High English uses *thee*, *thou*, *thy*, and *thine* for single persons.
4. High English uses *ye*, *you*, *your*, and *yours* for two or more persons.
5. Remember ... T pronouns are singular, and Y pronouns are plural!
6. They boast of new translations closer to the “original languages” than the King James, but they corrupt the pronouns the King James has!
7. For more, see ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/scripture/thee-and-thou.htm>.

# **Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (3)**

**“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”  
John 3:7**

- 1. Some teach that Nicodemus was already born again by this sentence.**
- 2. Others teach Nicodemus was desperately in need of being born again.**
- 3. The true sense is that contrary to Nicodemus's knowledge, men in general were in need of the new birth to see or enter the kingdom.**
- 4. How do we know? By the distinction between Nicodemus with the singular pronoun “thee” and the general rule with the plural “ye.”**
- 5. Bible versions that make both pronouns “you” corrupt the text.**

## **Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (4)**

**“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31-32).**

- 1. The plural pronoun “you” describes Satan’s desire for all the apostles.**
- 2. The singular pronouns “thee” and “thy” and “thou” and “thy” refer to Peter specifically, for they are singular pronouns for him only.**
- 3. The implied lesson is that Satan desires to sift all the children of God, but Jesus Christ takes individual and personal care to protect His own.**

# **Case Study: Thee's and Thou's – (5)**

**“But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:63-64).**

- 1. The high priest of the Jews interrogated our Lord Jesus Christ about the obvious (notice the singular pronouns)!**
- 2. Jesus admitted his identify by referring to the high priest's question.**
- 3. But then He had a little warning for a plurality of those participating – they would see Him coming in judgment in 40 years to destroy them!**

# Case Study: Do Commas Matter? – (1)

**“Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years”** (Exodus 12:40 in the King James Version).

**“Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years”** (Exodus 12:40 in the New International Version).

1. The verses are saying different things. What happened for 430 years?
2. A non-restrictive phrase does not alter the sentence without it.
3. Paul taught that it was 430 years from Abraham to Sinai (Gal 3:17), and Jacob and his sons were chronologically in Egypt for only 215 years.
4. For more see ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/bible/scripture/do-commas-matter.htm>.

## **Case Study: Do Commas Matter? – (2)**

**“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43 in the King James Version).**

**“And he said to him: ‘Truly I tell you today, You will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43 in the New World Translation of the Russellites).**

- 1. The Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe absence from the body is to be present with the Lord, so they altered the verse by moving a comma.**
- 2. We know exactly where Jesus and the thief went that day – to Paradise, the third heaven, the abode of God (Luke 23:46; II Cor 12:1-4; Lu 16:22).**

# **Case Study: Do Commas Matter? – (3)**

**“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Hebrews 1:8 in the King James Version).**

**“But with reference to the Son: ‘God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness’ (Hebrews 1:8 in the New World Translation of the Russellites).**

- 1. Can you find any doctrine corrupted here?**
- 2. Who does the King James Version address as God?**
- 3. Who is the throne forever and ever in the New World Translation?**

# Case Study: Genitive Phrases

**See study done previously:**

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/genitive-case.pdf>



# Case Study: Grammar of Regeneration

**See study done previously.**