

HANDLING ARIGHT THE WORD OF TRUTH

2Tim. 2:15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Whether or not we understand the Bible is determined to a great degree by our motive as we approach its study.
- B. We may respect the Bible as sufficient, rejecting human creeds, yet still be wrong in understanding
- C. The devil quoted scripture Matt 4:6,7; his ministers are deceptive 2Cor 11:14,15 They misapply & pervert
- D. We must rid ourselves of improper motives and attitudes or we are susceptible to false teachers
- E. The results attained in study are determined by: desire for truth, willingness to learn, reverence and respect for God's will and our recognition of our need for what God can supply.

DISCUSSION:

I. GIVE THE WORD OF GOD A FAIR HEARING

- A. Study all the Bible says on any given subject
 1. Truth doesn't contradict self; yet without hearing all testimony we may form incorrect conclusions
 2. Does Jhn 3:16 teach only belief necessary to save?
 - a. Some believers lost Jhn 12:42, 43; Jas 2:19
 - b. Saving faith is obedient Jas 2:14-26
- B Do not study to justify yourself
 1. Not weakness to admit "I was wrong" must search for truth not just to prove "I'm not wrong"
 2. Jesus questioned people from this motive Lk 16:15
 3. Blind man doesn't test ground already covered – we walk by faith not by sight 2Cor 5:7

II. ACCEPT THE SCRIPTURE AT FACE VALUE

- A. Let the Bible mean what it says
 1. God revealed what we need Eph 3:3-5 - (Deut 29:29)
 2. Some can't see simple truths - look for something deeper and miss point Col 2:6-8
 3. False teachers often use more difficult passages to prove position 2Pet 3:14-17
 - a. Approach difficult scripture open minded don't make them say more than they do or accept a view which contradicts other plain passages
 - b. Never make passage fit your idea, but visa-versa
- B. Do not let prejudice blind you
 1. If we make decisions without fair treatment of all evidence, we blind ourselves to truth 2Thess 2:10-12
 2. Some do not understand Bible, but fault not God's or the Bible's Matt 13:14,15

III. LET BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF

- A. Understand difficult passages in light of clear ones

- B. Bible has "meat" & "milk" Heb 5:12-14
 1. Some passages are more difficult 2Pet 3:16
 2. Do not isolate scripture so as to form a contradiction, God is not author of confusion 1Cor 14:33
 3. Harmonize doubtful passages with ones more readily understood.
- C. Most important attitude is willingness to study for yourself Acts 17:11
 1. Others may help by teaching us Acts 8:31
 2. Ultimately we must think for ourselves Jhn 7:17

IV. BEWARE OF THE "IDOLS" OF THE DEVIL

- A. Personal Opinion: "I know Bible says... but I think, Jer 9:13-16; Isa 55:8,9
- B. Worldly Wisdom: "Dr. So and So said this, . . he is educated and should know. " 1Cor 1:18-31
- C. Ecclesiasticism: "Our church teaches.,," religious leaders rejected Christ 2Tim 4:2-4; Jer 10:23
- D. Human Creeds: "The catechism (*summary of religious doctrine*) or my creed says" -- doctrines of men cause religious division Matt 15:7-9; Prov 14:12
- E. Inherited Traditions: "My parents believed,... and if it was good enough for them it's good enough for me." We must answer for ourselves Rom 14:12; Matt 10:37
- F. Convenience: "believe what you want we are all headed to the same place" Matt 7:21-23
- G. Popularity: "The majority believe this, surely so many could not be wrong" Matt 7:13,14

V. PROPERLY EVALUATE THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH

- A. Buy the truth and sell it not Prov 23:23
 1. Give up anything for the truth, obey then refuse to part with it for any price.
 2. Desire truth and be rewarded Matt 6:6; Jhn 17:17
 3. Handle truth with respect, reverence & obedience Rom 6:17,18
- B. Don't presume God will accept anything else
 1. Presumptuous sins are those that overstep proper bounds of God's word Psa 19:13; 1Sam 15:22,23
 2. Makes a difference whether we accept what God says without alteration Gal 1:6-8; 2Jhn 9; Rev 22:18,19

CONCLUSION:

- A. God's word is everlasting, unchangeable, and the standard by which we will be judged 1Pet 1:23-25; Jhn 12:48
- B. How am I handling the Word of Truth?
- C. Am I searching for truth with a mind ready to obey it?