## How To Study Your Bible (part 1)

- 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17
- 2 Timothy 2:15 is the only command in the Bible to study.

It has been changed in most modern "bible" translations. The key words "Study" and "dividing" have been removed.

- It is essential we *approach* the Bible as "the word of TRUTH." When we speak of "the Bible" we are referring to the KING JAMES BIBLE. It is our authority for all matters of faith and practice (1 Thess. 2:13).
- We don't judge the Bible; the Bible judges us. Let God be true and every man a liar.
- Four directives of Bible Study:
- I. The D of Bible study "Study..."
  - A. This is a COMMAND! It is every Christian's responsibility.
    - No one can do our Bible study for us (Acts 17:11; John 5:39).
  - B. More than simply reading or memorizing.
    - 1. Discerning sound doctrine.
    - 2. Making valid applications.
  - C. Study is intentional and scheduled. Requires time, energy, and commitment.
- **II.** The *DESIGN* of Bible study—"...to shew thyself approved unto God..."
  - A. We are seeking God's approval, not man's.
  - B. A pure motive is vital. Ask yourself, "What (or who) is controlling my thinking?"
- **III.** The DILIGENCE of Bible study—"...a workman that needeth not to be ashamed..."
  - A. The EXERTION—Bible study is hard WORK.
  - B. The EXPERTISE requires the skills of a craftsman.

- Study the Bible as an expert would study a painting. Up close, the expert studies the brush strokes and how colors are applied.
- 2. From a few steps back, or even several yards away, the whole painting can be seen.
- 3. In Bible study, you have to examine the words and phrases, zooming in on the details of a verse. But you have to "step back" and view the larger context by browsing throughout the Bible to derive as much understanding as possible about the principles and doctrines presented. CROSS REFERENCE.
- 4. Every craftsman has his "tools of the trade." The Bible student's tools are:
  - King James Bible (Scofield; Thompson; Wide Margin). The Bible does not need to be rewritten—It needs to be reread.
  - Concordance (Young's, Strong's)
  - Bible Software (SwordSearcher; e-Sword; WordSearch; MacSword).
  - Dictionary (Webster's 1828; Bible Dictionary)

## C. The EFFECT.

- 1. The person who studies the Word of God, will not be ashamed when confronted by cults (Mormons or JW.'s.).
- 2. Not be ashamed by problem texts (apparent contradictions).

## IV. The DI ISIONS of Bible study—"...rightly dividing the word of truth."

- The key to understanding the Bible is to know the principles of right division.
- **God is a God of division** (Gen. 1:4; Mt. 10:24; 25:32; Luke 12:51-53).

NEXT WEEK: "How To Study Your Bible" (part 2— Right Divisions)