

## “RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH”

### INTRODUCTION

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15** (480)

One may stand before God approved, rather than ashamed, only if handling of the Word is accurate.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:8** (478)

Since *“the law is good if one uses it lawfully”* it would be dangerous otherwise. When used other than as intended, even God’s word becomes bad.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16** (491)

The apostle acknowledged that those who twist the scriptures do so to their own destruction.

**D. Matthew 4:1-11** (391)

The devil is well versed in scripture and employs it fraudulently.

### I. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE MUST NOT BE REGARDED AS LITERAL.

**A. Matthew 13:34-35** (396)

It is plainly stated that Jesus spoke in parables, which are comparisons. They should not be interpreted literally.

**B. Galatians 4:21-26** (471)

Paul said he was writing symbolically. Symbols are not literal.

**C. Revelation 1:1** (493)

John described the Revelation as being *“signified”*. Therefore, its contents must not be understood literally.

**D. John 16:25** (437)

There is plain language and there is figurative language. We should know the difference.

**E. Matthew 13:36-43** (396); **Revelation 1:12-16, 20** (494)

For those who are patient in their studies, many times the meaning of figures and symbols will be revealed directly.

## II. FULFILLED PROMISES MUST NOT BE REGARDED AS UNFULFILLED.

### A. **Colossians 1:26** (475); **Ephesians 3:5** (472)

The mystery of the gospel has been revealed. We should treat it as a mystery no longer.

### B. **Matthew 6:10** (392); **Mark 9:1** (409); **Colossians 1:13** (475)

Jesus taught the disciples to pray for the kingdom to come, and it did! He said it would happen in their lifetime, and it did. We should no longer pray for what has already happened.

### C. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11** (463); **Hebrews 1:1-2** (482); **Acts 2:17** (440)

*“The ends of the ages **have** come”* and *“the last days”* began about two thousand years ago. Using these terms to describe the so-called “end-times” is inconsistent with their intended meanings in scripture.

## III. PASSAGES OF DIFFERING CONTEXTS MUST NOT BE JOINED.

### A. **Matthew 27:5** (403); **Luke 10:37** (420)

Judas *“went and hanged himself”* and Jesus said, *“Go and do likewise”*. Each statement is true, but one has nothing to do with the other.

### B. **Revelation 13:1-4** (497); **1<sup>st</sup> John 2:18, 22** (491); **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3** (478)

Scripture refers to *“the Beast”*, *“Antichrist”*, and *“the man of sin”*. Many people want to connect these figures into one entity, but the context does not allow for it.

## IV. SCRIPTURE CANNOT CONTRADICT SCRIPTURE.

### A. **Psalms 91:11-12** (244)

God appointed angels to protect Christ.

### B. **Deuteronomy 6:16** (77)

God must not be tested by man.

C. **Matthew 4:1-11** (391)

Jesus reproved the devil by pointing out that the one passage must not be understood in such a way that the other becomes meaningless.

V. **SCRIPTURE MUST COMPLEMENT SCRIPTURE.**

A. **Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25** (1)

Scripture does record two different creations of mankind. The single creation of man is mentioned twice.

B. **Matthew 27:5** (405); **Acts 1:18** (442)

The varying accounts of Judas' death are not contradictions. Each provides greater detail.

VI. **THE OLD TESTAMENT HAS BEEN REPLACED.**

A. **Hebrews 8:7-13** (484); **10:9** (485)

The Old Covenant is so described for a reason; it is obsolete and has been replaced.

B. **Galatians 3:19, 16, 23-25** (470)

The Law of Moses was a temporary measure by God, designed to last until Christ.

C. **Colossians 2:14** (475)

That way ceased to be valid when Christ died on the cross.

D. **Romans 15:4** (459); **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11** (463)

Nevertheless, the Old Law remains useful for learning.

VII. **SPIRITUAL GIFTS HAVE CEASED.**

A. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:28-13:13** (464)

1. Paul promised to "*show... a more excellent way*" than the spiritual gifts he listed (**12:31**). Love is superior over such things (**13:1-7**).

2. Love will never fail, but spiritual gifts would fail, cease, and vanish away (13:8).
3. Spiritual gifts brought only a part and would be done away with when that which was complete had arrived (13:9-12).

**B. Mark 16:20** (413); **Acts 2:22** (440); **14:3** (447); **Hebrews 2:1-4** (482)

The explicitly stated purpose of miracles, signs, and wonders was to confirm that the word spoken came from God.

1. **John 20:30-31** (441)

Miracles were **recorded** in scripture for the same reason they were performed in the first place. Faith can be gained from reading about them.

2. **Luke 16:30-31** (424)

Those who reject God's written word would not be saved even if they witnessed a miracle.

**C. Acts 8:14-17** (443)

1. Philip was a man full of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 6:3, 5**), who exercised his spiritual gifts to convince and convert the Samaritans (**Acts 8:5-13**).
2. Nevertheless, for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, the apostles had to lay their hands on them (**Acts 8:14-17**).
3. Therefore, the gifts could not be relayed from person to person, except by the apostles.

**D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:14-15** (469); **2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:9-10** (478)

Anyone now claiming spiritual gifts or private revelations of any kind is deceived by Satan.

**E. Ephesians 5:18-20** (473); **Colossians 3:16-17** (476)

In order to "*be filled with the Spirit*" now, one must "*let the word of Christ dwell in*" him.