### Eleven Steps for Studying a Scripture - Part 1

**NOTE:** According to 2 Timothy 2:15, every scripture should be: 1. Rightly divided . . . not wrongly divided 2. Handled rightly . . . not handled wrongly

**ELEVEN STEPS IN STUDYING A SCRIPTURE**

1. **BEGIN WITH PRAYER. ASK GOD TO HELP YOU SEE WHAT IS BEING TAUGHT.**
   a. Familiar passages ought to be read all the more carefully.
   b. Example: Luke 15:4
      1. Where did the man leave the ninety-nine?
      2. He left them in the wilderness.
      3. And yet, the song says they were left in the fold of safety. Read carefully.

2. **KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE OVERALL BOOK IN WHICH THE PASSAGE APPEARS.**
   a. Is it in the Old Testament or the New Testament?
   b. Does it have to do with:
      1. Law
      2. History
      3. Literature
      4. Prophecy
      5. Biography

3. **BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE OVERALL CONTEXT.**
   a. You may need to consider more than just the singular passage you are studying.
   b. You may be limiting yourself . . . and God.

4. **WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF THE TEXT?**
   a. Who wrote the passage?
   b. Who is speaking or being quoted in the passage?
   c. Was the speaker inspired or uninspired?

5. **TO WHOM IS THE TEXT ADDRESSED?**
   a. What do we know about these people, their situation, their history, the reason for addressing them in the text, etc.?
   b. What is their relation to God, and how were they serving Him?
   c. What were their particular problems and weaknesses?

6. **OF WHOM DOES THE TEXT SPEAK?**
   a. The Ethiopian Eunuch asked the same question in Acts 8:4?
   b. We need to know the persons discussed in the text in order to appreciate what is said about them.
   c. For example: to know something of the background of the Philistines, Samaritans, Pharisees, Sadducees, Athens, Corinth, Rome, etc., will help you better understand the text.

7. **WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE WRITING IN THE TEXT?**
   a. The Bible contains a variety of types of writings.
      1. Law
      2. Prophecy
      3. Prophets
      4. Letters
      5. Visions
   b. Familiarity with the various types of writing will be a plus in Bible study.

8. **WHEN WAS THE TEXT WRITTEN?**
   a. A knowledge of when the text was written will help you to determine under what law the statement was made.
   b. This will help us to determine if the text has direct application to our lives.