

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
 6. Etc.
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
 6. Etc.
 - 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.