

Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

“Rightly Dividing God’s Word”-Part 1

Introduction:

1. Here in 2 Timothy 2:14-18, we see that a failure to rightly divide results in:
 - Unprofitable **bickering** - vs. 14, 16a
 - The destruction of **people** - vs. 14, 17a
 - False **teachers** - vs. 17
 - False **doctrine** - vs. 18
2. In this lesson, we will share four guiding principles that will enable the Christian to rightly divide God’s Word.

I. You must carefully examine *who* God is addressing.

- A. The Bible divides humanity into three groups in 1 Corinthians 10:32.
 - **Jews**, the Gentiles, and the **church** of God
- B. God’s Word is always directly addressing one of these groups or individuals within one of these groups.
- C. All of the Bible is written **for** us, but it’s not all written **to** us.
- D. Every passage has a **doctrinal** application for the group addressed and a **practical** application for people of all ages.

II. You must always place Scripture in its proper *context*.

- A. God commands us to “rightly divide,” teaching us that there are distinct **divisions** in the Bible that must be distinguished.
 - Many times, these divisions are referred to as dispensations.
 - It is a stewardship arrangement between God and man. Mankind is given a responsibility and God’s requirements **differ** in each dispensation.
- B. Today, we live in the dispensation of **grace**. Ephesians 3:2
 - Our doctrine is found in **Paul’s** epistles to the church. Romans – Philemon
- C. Most false doctrine is derived from taking Scriptures out of their **context**.