



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

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Highlighted Scripture

- **2 Timothy 2:15**

Paul calls Timothy to handle God's message faithfully. Careful study begins with a desire to please God and understand what He has said. It takes patient attention and a heart willing to be taught.

- **Ephesians 4:14**

Paul describes the instability that comes from being led by deceptive teaching. Growing in Christ gives us steadiness while leaving us willing to learn. We can listen carefully and test what we hear.

- **Acts 17:11-12**

The Bereans welcomed the message and examined the Scriptures to test it. Their example joins an open heart with careful attention to God's Word. Many believed as they considered what Paul taught about Jesus.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:22**

Paul calls believers to abstain from evil in every form. In the surrounding instructions, discernment includes testing what is heard and holding to what is good. Understanding God's Word should shape our choices.

- **Matthew 24:13 (ESV)**

"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Jesus speaks to followers who will face deception, suffering, and growing lawlessness. He calls them to endure with their hope fixed on God's salvation. Faithfulness means continuing to trust Him through difficulty.

- **Matthew 24:42-46**

Jesus teaches readiness for His return through the picture of a servant who faithfully cares for the household. Watchfulness shapes today's responsibilities. We prepare by serving the people God has entrusted to our care.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Paul warns the church that unrighteous conduct is incompatible with God's kingdom. His words invite humble self-examination and repentance. Careful study keeps the passage's meaning connected to its call for a changed life.

- **Matthew 11:8**

Jesus contrasts John the Baptist with people dressed for palace life. John came as God's messenger, not as a figure of luxury. The passage invites us to value faithfulness to God more than comfort or status.

- **Luke 7:25**

Luke also records Jesus' contrast between John and those living in luxury. Comparing the two accounts helps us notice the setting and the point Jesus makes. We can learn to recognize faithful witness beneath outward appearances.

Discussion Questions

- When have you wanted to defend your position more than you wanted to understand a passage? What helped you become more teachable?
- The Bereans were both receptive and discerning. How can you practice both qualities when you hear an unfamiliar interpretation?
- What has helped you understand a familiar passage more clearly: its context, another translation, a study tool, or a conversation?
- How can hope in Christ's return make you more faithful in today's relationships and responsibilities?
- What is one way your study of God's Word has changed how you live? Where would you like to grow next?

Reflection Challenge

This week, choose one passage from this study that you have often heard explained. Read its surrounding paragraph slowly. Write what you observe, what it teaches, and one response you can make. Ask God to help you understand His Word and put it into practice.

Ask yourself:

- Am I seeking to understand the passage, or mainly looking for support for a conclusion I already hold?
- What does the surrounding paragraph help me see?
- Where do I need patience, courage, or humility as I learn?
- What would faithful obedience look like this week?

Try this:

- Read the passage aloud in your usual Bible, then compare one other reliable translation.
- If you use a Greek or Hebrew study tool, read the complete entry and consider how the word is used in this passage.
- Discuss one honest question with a trusted pastor or mature Christian, listening carefully to the answer.
- Put one clear truth into practice through an act of honesty, faithful service, or repentance.

Remember

- Want to know the truth more than you want to be right.
- A teachable heart can be both open and firmly rooted in Scripture.
- Read words within sentences, paragraphs, and the purpose of the biblical book.
- Use study tools with care, humility, and attention to context.
- Let growing understanding lead to growing obedience.
- Readiness for Christ includes faithful love and service today.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Give us a greater love for Your truth than for winning an argument. Help us listen patiently, study carefully, and remain willing to learn. Teach us to use the resources available to us with wisdom. Strengthen our trust in Jesus when life is difficult, and make us faithful in the people and responsibilities You have placed before us. Let what we learn lead to honest speech, repentance, and loving service.

In Jesus' name, Amen.