

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

HIS WORD IS SUPREME AND IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES OVER ALL MATTERS!

MY COMMENTARY: To understand the importance of the Word of God, consider that in the longest chapter in the Bible (Psalms 119) every single verse (all 176 of them) address the importance that the Scriptures should have in our lives.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Psalms 19:7-12

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

2 Timothy 3:12-17

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Luke 16:27-31

7 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, **They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, **If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.**

John 5:45-47

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

46 **For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.**

47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

15 Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;**

2 **By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 **For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

4 **And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

2 Peter 1:18-21

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 **We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

20 **Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

21 **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

Psalms 119:105 **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

Proverbs 6:23 **For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:**

John 7:37-39

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

THE PROBLEM AND THE NEED:

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.**

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Do ye not therefore err,**

because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, **who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth,** before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Hosea 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.**

Amos 8:11 **Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of**

the Lord:

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: **for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.**

Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and **the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.**

Isaiah 8:20 **To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**

2 Thessalonians 2:9-14

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

11 And **for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:**

12 **That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13:19 **When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.**

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, **nor handling the word of God deceitfully**; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

4 **In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our**

hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 8:9 The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?

1 Timothy 6:3-5

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

2 Timothy 3:7 **Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Titus 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and **commandments of men, that turn from the truth.**

2 Timothy 2:18 **Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.**

2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; **in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Acts 8:30-35

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest?**

31 And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me?** And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 **The place of the scripture which he read was this,** He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the

prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Acts 18:24-28

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and **mighty in the scriptures**, came to Ephesus.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, **he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.**

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, **they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, **shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.**

THE SOLUTION IS STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD:

2 Timothy 2:14-16

14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

John 5:39 **Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**

Acts 17:11 **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Romans 15:4 **For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

AS WE SEARCH WE NEED THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO OPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING AS WE STUDY HIS WORD.

Luke 24:44-47

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,**

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luke 24:31-32

31 And **their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.**

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and **while he opened to us the scriptures?**

John 16:13 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

WHEN YOU WANT ANSWERS, THE “TOPICAL STUDY APPROACH” IS BEST:

PRINCIPLE: If you want answers to questions, then you have to study the Scriptures “topically.” We should gather all verses on any given subject and then pray and ask the Lord to show us the revelation of truth that will “harmonize” all of these Scriptures. If any verse contradicts our understanding of a particular doctrinal subject, then we must continue to seek the Lord until He gives us an understanding that allows all of the verses to “say the same thing.”

WE NEED TO LOVE THE TRUTH ENOUGH TO PERSISTENTLY, CONSISTENTLY, AND FAITHFULLY SEARCH FOR IT.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-14

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should **believe a lie:**

12 **That they all might be damned who believed not the truth,** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:**

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 23:23 **Buy the truth, and sell it not;** also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Psalms 33:4 **For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.**

Psalms 43:3 **O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me;** let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Psalms 100:5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and **his truth endureth to all generations.**

Psalms 119:151 Thou art near, O Lord; and **all thy commandments are truth.**

Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and **for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

Psalms 145:18 **The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.**

Daniel 10:21 But I will shew thee that which is noted **in the scripture of truth:** and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and **truth came by Jesus**

Christ.

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and **they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

John 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In whom ye also trusted, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before **in the word of the truth of the gospel**;

1 Timothy 2:3-6

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 **Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

James 1:18 **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:22 **Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit** unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

WE CANNOT SEPARATE THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD FROM THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WORD:

John 1:14 **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

Psalms 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and **thy law is the truth.**

1 John 2:3-5

3 And **hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.**

4 **He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

5 **But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.**

John 8:32 **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

John 14:6 **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES OF THE “TOPICAL STUDY APPROACH” ARE VERY CRITICAL TO FINDING TRUTH:

PRINCIPLE #1: BY DEFINITION, TRUTH CANNOT CONTRADICT TRUTH:

PRINCIPLE: “Truth” by its definition cannot contradict itself. Two things/statements/doctrines/principles, etc. cannot both be true and say things that are in contradiction to each other. The principle of truth and harmony are synonymous. The principles, doctrines, statements, etc. of truth must be in harmony with each other or one or more of them cannot be true, by definition.

Webster’s Dictionary definition of **TRUE:**

adj.

3 in accordance with fact; that agrees with reality; not false

4 a) conforming to an original, pattern, rule, standard, etc. b) exact; accurate; right; correct

7 a) real; genuine; authentic b) conforming to the ideal character or having all the basic characteristics of such; rightly so called

Webster's Dictionary definition of **TRUTH**:

n.,

1 the quality or state of being true; specif., c) the quality of being in accordance with experience, facts, or reality; conformity with fact d) reality; actual existence

2 that which is true; statement, etc. that accords with fact or reality

3 an established or verified fact, principle, etc.

SYN. — **truth** suggests conformity with the facts or with reality, either as an idealized abstraction ["What is truth?" said Pilate] or in actual application to statements, ideas, acts, etc. [there is no truth in that rumor].

PRINCIPLE #2: ALL SCRIPTURES CAME FROM BEING "GOD BREATHED IN" (DICTATED), AND ALL ARE EQUAL IN THE SIGHT OF GOD FOR DEFINING AND DECLARING DOCTRINE:

PRINCIPLE: Every Scripture has its place in the "jigsaw puzzle" of the Word of God. The true and total picture of what the Lord is saying to us about any subject is not possible to know unless all "pieces" (Scriptures) on that subject are "assembled" in their proper place in the "picture":

2 Timothy 3:12-17

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by **inspiration** of God, and is **profitable** for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

INSPIRATION (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 2315 theopneustos (teh-op'-nyoo-stos); from NT:2316 and a presumed derivative of NT:4154;

divinely breathed in:

KJV - given by inspiration of God.

#2315 IS DERIVED FROM TWO #2316 AND #4154:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 2316 theos (teh'-os); of uncertain affinity; **a deity, especially (with NT:3588) the supreme Divinity**; figuratively, a magistrate; by Hebraism, very: KJV - exceeding, God, god [-ly, -ward].

AND:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 4154 pneo (pneh'-o); a primary word; **to breathe hard**, i.e. breeze:

KJV - blow.

INSPIRATION (THE COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY) = # 2315 theópneustos; from Theós (2316), God, and pnéœ (4154), to breathe or blow. **Prompted by God, divinely inspired, occurs only in 2 Timothy 3:16 in the NT.** In Class. Gr., opposed to phusikós (5446), natural in contrast to divine. In reality, the formation of the word should be traced to empnéœ (1709), inspire (Acts 9:1), urged by the pneúma (4151), spirit, whether one's own or God's or the spirit world, instead of pnéœ. The simple verb pnéœ is never used of divine action. Neither empnéœ nor pnéœ is used in 2 Peter 1:21, but the expression "by the Spirit, the Holy one, being driven or carried [pherómenoi, pres. pass. part. of phéœ {5342}, to carry]" (a.t.) referring to those who wrote God's utterances or prophecies.

PROFITABLE (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 5624 ophelimos (o-fel'-ee-mos); from a form of NT:3786; **helpful or serviceable, i.e.**

advantageous:

KJV - profit (-able).

#5624 IS DERIVED FROM A FORM OF #3786:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3786 *ophelos* (of'-el-os); **from ophello (to heap up, i.e. accumulate or benefit); gain:**
KJV - advantageth, profit.

PROFITABLE (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 5624 *euchrestos*, "useful, serviceable" (eu, "well," *chrestos*, "serviceable," akin to *chraomai*, see No. 1), is used in Philemon 11, "profitable," in contrast to *achrestos*, "unprofitable" (a, negative), with a delightful play upon the name "Onesimus," signifying "profitable" (from *onesis*, "profit"), a common name among slaves. Perhaps the prefix eu should have been brought out by some rendering like "very profitable," "very serviceable," the suggestion being that whereas the runaway slave had done great disservice to Philemon, now after his conversion, in devotedly serving the apostle in his confinement, he had thereby already become particularly serviceable to Philemon himself, considering that the latter would have most willingly rendered service to Paul, had it been possible. Onesimus, who had belied his name, was now true to it on behalf of his erstwhile master, who also owed his conversion to the apostle.

It is translated "meet for (the master's) use" in 2 Timothy 2:21; "useful" in 4:11, RV (KJV, "profitable"). See USEFUL. In the Sept., Proverbs 31:13.

DOCTRINE (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1319 *didaskalia* (did-as-kal-ee'-ah); from NT:1320; **instruction (the function or the information):**
KJV - doctrine, learning, teaching.

#1319 IS DERIVED FROM #1320:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1320 *didaskalos* (did-as'-kal-os); from NT:1321; **an instructor** (genitive case or specially):
KJV - doctor, master, teacher.

#1320 IS DERIVED FROM #1321:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1321 *didasko* (did-as'-ko); a prolonged (causative) form of a primary verb *dao* (to learn); **to teach (in the same broad application):**
KJV - teach.

DOCTRINE (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 1319 *didaskalia*, *didaskalias*,

1. teaching, instruction: Romans 12:7; 15:4
2. **teaching, i. e. that which is taught, doctrine:** Ephesians 4:14

DOCTRINE (VINE'S EXPOSITORY GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1319

1. *didache* #1322, akin to No. 1, under DOCTOR, denotes "teaching," either (a) that which is taught, e. g., Matthew 7:28, KJV, "doctrine," RV, "teaching"; Titus 1:9, RV; Revelation 2:14-15,24, or (b) the act of teaching, instruction, e. g., Mark 4:2, KJV, "doctrine," RV, "teaching" the RV has "the doctrine" in Romans 16:17. See NOTE (1) below.

2. *didaskalia* #1319) denotes, as No. 1 (from which, however, it is to be distinguished), (a) "**that which is taught, doctrine,**" Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7; Ephesians 4:14; Colossians 2:22; 1 Timothy 1:10; 4:1,6; 6:1,3; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9 ("doctrine," in last part of verse: see also No. 1); 2:1,10; (b) "teaching, instruction," Romans 12:7, "teaching"; 15:4, "learning", 1 Timothy 4:13, KJV, "doctrine," RV, "teaching"; v. 16, KJV, "the doctrine," RV, (correctly) "thy teaching; 5:17, KJV, "doctrine," RV "teaching"; 2 Timothy 3:10,16 (ditto); Titus 2:7, "thy doctrine." Cf. No. 1, under DOCTOR. See LEARNING.

Notes: (I) Whereas *didache* is used only twice in the Pastoral Epistles, 2 Timothy 4:2, and Titus 1:9, *didaskalia* occurs fifteen times. Both are used in the active and passive senses (i. e., the act of teaching and what is taught), the passive is predominant in *didache*, the active in *didaskalia*, the former stresses the authority, the latter the act (Cremer). Apart from the apostle Paul, other writers make use of *didache* only, save in Matthew 15:9 and Mark 7:7 (*didaskalia*).

PRINCIPLE #3: NONE SHALL WANT HER MATE, LET THE BIBLE INTERPRET THE BIBLE:

PRINCIPLE: Not one Scripture is lacking in a "mated" verse that is the key to "unlocking" its meaning. See the following principle for additional evidence of this principle. Basically, Isaiah 34:16 and 2 Peter 1:20 are telling us to let the Bible interpret the Bible.

Isaiah 34:16 **Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.**

Isaiah 34:16 (THE AMPLIFIED VERSION)

16 **Seek out of the book of the Lord and read: not one of these [details of prophecy] shall fail, none shall want and lack her mate [in fulfillment]. For the mouth [of the Lord] has commanded, and His Spirit has gathered them.**

PRINCIPLE #4: NO CAN BE INTERPRETED INDEPENDENTLY FROM THE REST OF SCRIPTURE:

PRINCIPLE: No Scripture can be interpreted “independently” from the context of all the other Scriptures.

2 Peter 1:18-21

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any ***private interpretation***.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

PRIVATE (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 2398 idios (id'-ee-os); of uncertain affinity; **pertaining to self, i.e. one's own; by implication, private or separate:** KJV - his acquaintance, when they were alone, apart, aside, due, his (own, proper, several), home, (her, our, thine, your) own (business), private (-ly), proper, severally, their (own).

PRIVATE (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON) = # 2398 idios, idia, idion

1. **pertaining to oneself, one's own**
 - a. used universally, of what is one's own as opposed to belonging to another: John 10:3 ff,12
 - b. used of what pertains to one's property, family, dwelling, country, etc. Acts 4:32
 - c. **used harmonizing with, or suitable or assigned to, one's nature, character, aims, acts; appropriate:** Acts 1:7
 - d. By a usage foreign to the earlier Greeks, but found in the church Fathers and the Byzantine writings Matthew 22:5
2. **private an adverb, severally, separately, 1 Corinthians 12:11 apart: Matthew 14:13. in private, privately: Mark 4:34**

INTERPRETATION (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1955 epilusis (ep-il'-oo-sis); from NT:1956; **explanation, i.e. application:** KJV - interpretation.

#1955 IS DERIVED FROM #1956:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1956 epiluo (ep-ee-loo'-o); from NT:1909 and NT:3089; **to solve further, i.e. (figuratively) to explain, decide:** KJV - determine, expound.

#1956 IS DERIVED FROM TWO #1909 AND #3089:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1909 epi (ep-ee'); a primary preposition; properly, **meaning superimposition (of time, place, order, etc.), as a relation of distribution** [with the genitive case], i.e. over, upon, etc.; of rest (with the det.) at, on, etc.; of direction (with the accusative case) towards, upon, etc.:

KJV - about (the times), above, after, against, among, as long as (touching), at, beside, have charge of, (be-, [wherefore-]), in (a place, as much as, the time of, -to), (because) of, (up-) on (behalf of), over, (by, for) the space of, through (-out), (un-) to (-ward), with. In compounds it retains essentially the same import, at, upon, etc. (literally or figuratively).

AND:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3089 luo (loo'-o); a primary verb; **to "loosen" (literally or figuratively):** KJV - break (up), destroy, dissolve, (un-) loose, melt, put off.

INTERPRETATION (VINE'S EXPOSITORY GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 1955 epilusis, from epiluo, **"to loose, solve, explain," denotes "a solution, explanation," lit., "a release" (epi, "up," luo, "to loose"), 2 Peter 1:20, "(of private) interpretation"; i. e., the writers of Scripture did not put their own construction upon the "Godbreathed" words they wrote [AND NEITHER SHOULD WE!].**

PRINCIPLE #5: RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD BEFORE YOU APPLY THE WORD:

PRINCIPLE: Many Scriptures are used out of context, especially in reference to New Testament salvation. It is imperative to know to whom Scriptures are addressed in order to be able to determine the application of the verse.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (THE AMPLIFIED VERSION)

15 **Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.**

RIGHTLY DIVIDING (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3718 orthotomeo (or-thot-om-eh'-o); from a compound of NT:3717 and the base of NT:5114, **to make a straight cut, i.e. (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly (the divine message):** KJV - rightly divide.

#3718 IS DERIVED FROM A COMPOUND OF #3717 AND THE BASE OF #5114:

(STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3717 orthos (or-thos'); probably from the base of NT:3735; **right (as rising), i.e. (perpendicularly) erect (figuratively, honest), or (horizontally) level or direct:**

KJV - straight, upright.

AND:

THE BASE OF (STRONG'S GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 5114 tomoteros (tom-o'-ter-os); **comparative of a derivative of the primary temno (to cut; more comprehensive or decisive than NT:2875, as if by a single stroke; whereas that implies repeated blows, like hacking); more keen:**

KJV - sharper.

RIGHTLY DIVIDE (THE COMPLETE WORD STUDY DICTIONARY) = # 3718 orthotoméœ; contracted orthotomœ; fut. orthotomœ; from orthós (3717), right and témnœ (n.f., see below), to cut or divide. **To handle correctly, skillfully; to correctly teach the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15; Sept.: Proverbs 3:6; 11:5).**

Derivative of témnœ (n.f.): peritémnœ (4059), to circumcise; suntémnœ (4932), to cut short; tomœ;teros (5114), finer edged, sharper.

Synonym: alœtheúœ (226), to be true.

Antonyms: streblóœ (4761), to pervert, twist, wrest; planáœ (4105), to lead astray; pseúdomai (5574), to deceive by falsehood; diastréphœ (1294), to distort;

apatáœ (538), to deceive; exapatáœ (1818), to greatly deceive.

RIGHTLY DIVIDE (VINE'S EXPOSITORY GREEK DICTIONARY) = # 3718
orthotomeo, lit., "to cut straight" (*orthos*, "straight," *temno*, "to cut"), is found in 2 Timothy 2:15, KJV, "rightly dividing," RV, "handling aright" (the word of truth); the meaning passed from the idea of cutting or "dividing," to the more general sense of "rightly dealing with a thing." What is intended here is not "dividing" Scripture from Scripture, but teaching Scripture accurately. In the Sept., of directing one's paths, Proverbs 3:6 and 11:5 ("righteousness traces out blameless paths").

PRINCIPLE #6: BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES SHALL EVERY WORD BE ESTABLISHED:

PRINCIPLE: No Scripture can be used independently to establish a doctrine separate from the rest of the Bible. The Lord always establishes His truth by more than ONE statement of it. Any doctrine that cannot be establish by more than one verse is in error.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then **take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**

John 8:17-18

17 It is also written in your law, that **the testimony of two men is true.**

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

2 Corinthians 13:1 **This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.**

1 John 5:7-8

7 **For there are three that bear record in heaven**, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And **there are three that bear witness in earth**, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

PRINCIPLE #7: BEWARE THE DANGER OF “ADDING TO” OR “TAKING AWAY” FROM THE WORD OF GOD:

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

John 21:25 (THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did. If they should be all recorded one by one [in detail], I suppose that even the world itself could not contain (have room for) the books that would be written.

John 21:24-25 (WUEST'S EXPANDED TRANSLATION)

24-25 This is the disciple who is bearing testimony concerning these things, and the one who wrote these things. And we know positively that his testimony is true. Now there are also many other things which Jesus did which are of such a nature that if they were written, each one, I do not suppose that the universe itself could contain the books that would be written.

PRINCIPLE: Considering this verse from the Gospel of John, since the Lord has already done an astounding job of “condensation” of all that could be known and required, it is the height of presumption and pride to either add to or take away from the Word that we do have in our possession from God.

Deuteronomy 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Deuteronomy 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Revelation 22:18-20

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

WE MUST BE PATIENT AND PERSISTENT IN OUR PURSUIT OF TRUTH, THE LORD IS NEVER GOING TO GIVE US AN UNDERSTANDING OF ALL OF HIS WORD AT ONE TIME:

Isaiah 28:9-13

9 **Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine?** them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:**

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 **But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;** that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE GREAT UPON THOSE WHO LOVE HIS WORD OF TRUTH:

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

18 **Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.**

19 **And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.**

20 **And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:**

21 **That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.**

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

18 **And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:**

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 119:97-100

97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.