

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS (II Tim. 2:15)

LEARN THE DISPENSATIONS

II Timothy 2:15 Along with the command to 'study', we are given the command to 'rightly divide the word of truth'. We are taught that the bible is written to us, but that is not entirely true. The whole bible is written for us, for our learning, (**Rm. 15:4; II Tim. 3:16-17**), however, the whole bible is not addressed to the Christian. We must learn to understand, interpret and apply scripture correctly.

Numbers 15:32-36 A good example is when God gave the Law to Moses for the nation of Israel regarding the Sabbath Day and the consequences of breaking that law. Do we kill people today for mowing their lawn on Saturday?

Colossians 1:25-27 The word dispensation comes from the word 'dispense'. Dispensation therefore, is an administration (or dispensing) of God's will over a certain time to a certain group of people. To understand a bible passage, it is important to know what time period is this spoken in, and what group of people is being spoken to. In this verse we can see that Paul was called to a particular dispensation.

Dispensations; (1) Innocence (2) Conscience (3) Human Government (4) Promise (5) Law (6) Grace (7) Tribulation (8) Kingdom (9) Eternity

LEARN THE CONTEXT

Studying context is respecting the author and the authority of the scriptures The context of a passage includes the following: (1) study the verses immediately before and after the passage in question (2) study the paragraph and book in which the passage appears (3) study other books the author has written (4) understand the cultural environment of the times within the passage (5) understand the historical period and grammatical language during the time of the passage.

Examples: Galatians 5:4 Does "Falling from grace" mean that a person can lose their salvation?

I John 4:7-8 Do these verse tell us that God is love and we are all okay without fear of judgment?

I Corinthians 7:1 Does this mean that there should be no contact between men and women?

I John 3:6-10 Does this mean that to maintain our status as a Christian, a believer must not ever sin?

James 2:26 Does this passage mean that we must have good works along with faith to be saved?

Mark 16:16-17 Do these verses mean that all Christians should speak in tongues, or not be killed by the bite of a poisonous snake. Should all Christians be able to cast out devils and heal all the sick by laying hands on them?

LEARN TO COMPARE

I Corinthians 2:12-14 Paul tells us that the things of God are taught by the Holy Ghost by comparing 'spiritual things with spiritual things'. What are 'spiritual things'?

I Corinthians 2:13; 9:11 These are the only two verses in the bible containing 'spiritual things'.

I Corinthians 9:11 Paul tells us that he had 'sown spiritual things' to the Corinthians.

Luke 8:5, 11; Mark 4:14 By allowing the Holy Ghost to interpret the scripture by comparing and searching other verses, we can see that to "compare spiritual things with spiritual things" means if we compare verses of scripture that contain the same words, especially by the same author, that will give us the true meaning of the word and the meaning of the scripture.

