

# Share Your Faith

## Lesson 6 – CLARIFY 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11

### Misinterpretation of Biblical Passages

#### Introduction:

- “Other gospels” will take Scripture out of context, significantly altering the intended meaning.
- One cult claims that their prophet Bahauallah was prophesied in John 14:16.
- Many cults and religious groups use Matt. 24:13 as basis for works-salvation.

The focus of this lesson is on “rightly dividing the word of truth.” This involves 2 key theological truths: ***Illumination and interpretation***. These are critical to man’s ability to rightly divide God’s Word.

#### I. Illumination – The work of the Holy Spirit.

Remember! The cultist is NOT the enemy. Believers often become angry and attack the person out of frustration because the “refuse” to acknowledge they are wrong. (*Illust. FM Radio and soda can.*)

- A. ***Illumination*** is the ministry of the Holy Spirit that makes clear the truth of written revelation in the Bible. John 16:12-15; I Cor. 2:9-3:2.

***Revelation*** = Content or material of the Bible.

***Inspiration*** = The Method of recording that material.

***Illumination*** = The meaning of the material.

- B. 4 Important truths from John 16:12-15 and I Cor. 2:9-3:2
1. The Holy Spirit is the teacher.
  2. The Spirit teaches “all the truth” (even prophecy).
  3. The Spirit will glorify Christ, not himself.
  4. Sin in the believer’s life can hinder or nullify this ministry of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:1-2).

***I Corinthians 2:14: “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”***

#### II. Interpretation – The work of the Believer.

- A. **Our Task:** 2 Tim. 2:15 – We are assigned to “study” in such a way that 3 things are true:
1. To show yourself approved unto God.
  2. A workman that need not be ashamed.
  3. Rightly dividing the word of Truth.
- B. **Key Principles of Interpreting God’s Word.**
1. **Interpretation vs. Application.**
  2. **What does the TEXT say?**
    - a. What is the PLAIN meaning of each word in its normal grammatical-historical sense.
    - b. Plain interpretation does not exclude figures of speech. Figures of speech may communicate more clearly, but what it communicates is plain! (Ex. “I am the door”, “I am the bread of life”, “I am the true vine”.)
  3. **What is the CONTEXT?** (Chapter, book, historical setting.)
    - a. Read with understanding the context in which a verse or passage appears in order to understand its meaning.
    - b. Be careful of pulling a verse out of its context.
  4. **What is the GREATER CONTEXT?** (Overall teaching of the Bible on the subject.)
    - a. Compare Scripture with Scripture? (*Ex. Pork in O.T. and Church age.*)
    - b. Recognize the progress of revelation – from Genesis to Revelation. Not all of Scripture was given at once – but over 1600 years. Much more information is given in the N.T. that was a mystery in the O.T. – for example, the Church.
    - c. Know your important divisions in the Bible, as they affect proper interpretation.
      1. Old and New Testaments.
      2. Different kinds of writings – historical, poetic, prophetic.
      3. The covenants.
      4. Israel and the Church.
      5. Difference between Law and Grace.

**When sharing your faith those of other belief systems, make sure that you CLARIFY the meaning of each passage of Scripture.**