

[The Book of 2 Timothy](#)
Chapter 2
“Rightly Dividing the Word”

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As Paul writes this second letter to Timothy, one of the major points that he is going to make today, it that each of us are to be able to **“Rightly Divide The Word”**.

That is, we are to know our Bible well enough that we can divide it and find any subject or doctrine that is necessary.

Today in the church there is a shocking lack of knowledge of the Bible

Churches are not teaching their people the whole Bible and many times the people have a very difficult time remembering the different subjects in the bible and where exactly they are.

Well, such is the case of this young Cajun boy I want to tell you about by the name of “Claude”. I want to use Claude this morning to illustrate how great our need is to know our Bible...

Claude He was a zealous new Christian who lived way down on the bayou.

He approached his pastor one day, and asked if he could serve in the church.

The pastor asked, **“Claude, can you read and write?”**

Claude admitted going to school hadn’t been his top priority. He’d been too busy hunting gators and eating gumbo.

The pastor asked again, **“Well, do you know your Bible?”**

Claude replied, **“Sir, I’s pretty good in de Scriptures; I knows my Bible from limb to limb.”**

The pastor then asked him to name his favorite Bible story. Claude answered, **“I like de parable o’ de Good Samaritan.”**

He said, **“Great, tell me the story?”**

And here’s how Claude told it...

"Onced dere was dis man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. And he felled among thorns and de thorns sprung up and choked him.

And as he went on his way, he didn't have no maney and he medst the queen of Sheba, and she gives him a thousand talents of gold, and a hunder'd changes o' raiment.

And he gots into a chariot and he drove furiously. And as he was a drivin' under a big juniper tree, his hair caught in de limb of dat tree, and he hung dere many days.

And de ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink, and he ate five thousand loaves and two fishes.

One night when he was a hangin' dere asleep, his wife Delilah comes along and cuts his hair, and he drops and he fells to de stony ground.

But he gots up and he went on.

And it began a rainin' forty days and forty nights, and he hids himself in caves, and he lives on locusts an wilds honey.

And while he was dere, he met a servant who says, 'Come, take suppa at my house'. And he says, 'No, I won't; I married a wife and I can't go'.

Well, de servant went out into de highways and de hedges and compelled him to come.

And after suppa, he went on down to Jericho. Well, when he got dere, he saw dat old queen Jezebel sittin' way up high in da winda, and she laughed at him.

And he say, 'Throw her down outta dere'; and they throw'd her down seventy times seven.

And of the fragments, dey picked up twelve baskets fulls – 'sides womens and childrens.

And den da say, 'Blessed are da piecemakers.'

Now, who's wife you s'pose she be in de judgment day?"

The need for each one of us to know our Bible...

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

2 Timothy 2

1 You therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And **the things that you have heard from me** among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men** who will be able to teach others also.

Are you strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus?

- **Well**, what is Grace anyway?
- **Remember?** Grace is "*Getting what you do not deserve.*"

- **Are there any people** in your life right now that don't deserve anything from you?
- **These are the ones** that you are to show grace to, to give to them the love, help and forgiveness that they do not deserve!

Do you find that hard? I do...

Let me ask you another question. Did you deserve all of the Love that Jesus has poured out upon your life?

- **No**, I didn't deserve it.
- **This what we call** "Receiving the Grace of the Lord."
- **Jesus Gave to you and I** what we did not deserve, He loved us so much that he allowed them to place Him on a Cross, Pierce his wrists, and ankles, beat him till he was not recognizable as a human being. Then have poured into his perfect sinless life, all of the filth and vile things that every human being has ever done in all time, upon Him.
- **He bore all of your sins and disgrace** and took all of your punishment on that Cross.
- **Did you deserve that?** Never the less we receive that from Jesus. We received UNDESERVED GRACE.

We then, are commanded here, not suggested, commanded to "Be strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus"

- **If you have not done so before**, then beginning this morning, you are to start pouring out Grace, **give to the worst people in your life, what they don't deserve, your love, and the love of Jesus...**

2 Timothy 2

2 And **the things that you have heard from me** among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men** who will be able to teach others also.

This is the "Theme verse of our Ministry"

- **Calvary Chapel** is modeled after the first church in the Book of Acts, where Jesus told us to teach the people the Word of God.
- **This is what our primary focus is here**, to teach you everything that Gods Word has to say, and thereby equip you.
- **Then what does it say** that you are to do with this new knowledge?

"...commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"

You are to take what the Holy Spirit teaches you each Sunday and Wednesday night, and **"TEACH OTHERS ALSO"**

Are you up for it? Will you do it? Then notice next what will happen to you if you Teach people what the Word of God says:

3 You therefore must endure hardship as **a good soldier** of Jesus Christ.

4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

If you come here to learn with us, then you are going to grow by leaps and bounds.

- **You are going to find** all of the answers to every question that comes along in your life.
- **You will have these answers** direct from the mouth of the One who made you.
- **But notice**, you will also “ENDURE HARDSHIP”.
- **“Oh sign me up for that pastor Rob, I don’t have enough hardship in my life”.**

Well, guess what? When you gave your life to Jesus, you were making Him “Lord of your life”.

- **That means** that you no longer own the rights to your life.
- **Jesus paid for you** with His life.
- **You died there on that Cross**, and it is no longer you who live, but it is Jesus now living through you.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?**

20 For **you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The illustration that Paul uses here in 2 Timothy, is that of a soldier.

- **When you sign up for military service**, you essentially signed your life over to the United States Government.
- **They own you**. They order your life, they tell you when to get up, what you are going to do with your life, how to act, where to go, how to talk, how to dress, how to follow orders.

Listen to oath of office that every soldier of the United States Army swears to:

“I YOUR NAME, having been appointed a soldier in the United States Army, do solemnly swear, that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.”

1. **You acknowledge** you are a soldier under service of your country.
2. **You solemnly swear** to support and defend the Constitution.
3. **You solemnly swear to defend** against all enemies from other countries or even your own people.

4. **That you** will bear true faith.
5. **That you will** bear allegiance.

Paul says here to Timothy, and to all of us this morning who name Jesus as our Lord,

- **Do you** acknowledge that you are Jesus soldier?
- **Do you swear to support** and defend the Word of God?
- **Will you defend your faith** and your Lord and His Word against all enemies that come from unknown places or even from among those who claim to be believers.
- **Will you bear** a true faith to Jesus?
- **Will you bear “allegiance”**, which is loyalty and obedience to Jesus?

When you put it in that perspective, kind of changes the whole idea of really making Jesus Lord over your life.

We are to think of ourselves as Jesus “Soldiers, under His service, bearing true loyalty, and obedience to Him, defending His Word and His truth, from anyone, friend family member or any enemy.

2 Timothy 2

3 **You therefore must endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier

What does it mean to “Become entangled in the affairs of this life”?

- **In the “Parable of the Sower”** of Matthew chapter 13 and Luke 8, Jesus illustrated that there are 3 dangers for us as believers that can cause us to become entangled in the affairs of this life.
 1. **The hard soil**, representing the danger of allowing our heart to become hardened by the affairs of this world, and then we fall away from Jesus.
 2. **The Rocky Soil**, representing what happens when trouble or difficulty comes from the world, and the person falls away from Jesus.
 3. **The Thorny soil**. That represents what happens when we become caught up in the seeking of material things, how it can choke out the Word of God, and our desire to follow Jesus.

Matthew 13:18-22

18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the hard path.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

A warning for us this morning from the Holy Spirit to be on guard that we don't allow our heart to become hardened, allow difficulty to discourage us, allow material things to take up our time so that we no longer have any time for Jesus and His Word.

2 Timothy 2

5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Paul uses a second illustration: Thinking of the Olympic Athlete.

1. **There are a "Code of Ethics"** that every athlete that competes in the Olympic games must agree to live by.
2. **Here are a few** of these Ethics: (*From www.olympic.org*)
 - Maintain Dignity.
 - Do nothing that causes injury.
 - Not allow financial reward to influence their participating.

Paul says, our serving and living for Jesus, has similar requirement upon our life, that an Olympic Athlete has.

- **We are Sons and Daughters** of the Greatest King in the Universe, we should speak, act and live like we are children of a Great King.

We live our life with Grace and Mercy as characteristics of our life:

- **Grace** is giving forgiveness and love to people **that deserve it the least**, especially those that have hurt or injured us.
- **Mercy** is not doing to people what they really deserve. Judgment is not for us to determine or execute, we wait patiently for Jesus to judge, we just keep loving people.

No financial Reward that comes our way in this life will deter us from Keeping Jesus first.

- **We don't work more hours** so as to make more to buy more.
- **We seek to organize our life in such a way** that we have the maximum amount of time to spend with the Lord, to study His Word, and be in fellowship with His people.

Will Rogers once said: *“Don’t let yesterday use up too much of today”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous author said that *“A day is a miniature eternity”*

There once was a father who was strolling along the beach with his little boy.

They were throwing the sea washed smooth stones that washed up on the sand, out into the surf and watching them skip along the water.

Suddenly the whole world just disappeared and all there was in eternity was this father and his son enjoying the sea, the sand and the sunshine.

It seemed as if there was no other moment in the world as important and as full of joy as this one.

Suddenly, the father looked at his watch and realized that it was **“Lunchtime”** They reluctantly left the beach to go and sit down to eat.

As they sat down together they wondered why they had stopped the game that had brought them so much pleasure?

What was so important about noon that it stopped them from the sheer pleasure of life?

After lunch the father and his son returned to the beach to continue the game they had enjoyed so much, but the mood was gone now, the finding and skipping of the rocks was not the same anymore...

- **The most precious thing** you have in your life is your time.
- **The time that Jesus created for you** to enjoy friendship with Him, and those that love Him also.
- **Oh how strong is the worlds pull** upon us to work more, make more money, buy more things...

This morning a reminder from the Holy Spirit to remember we are like the Olympic Athlete, we also have sworn to a code of ethics that we will not allow financial reward to deter us from the race we are in to **FINISH FAITHFUL WITH JESUS!**

2 Timothy 2

6 The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Does a person who farms the land that he owns, eat from the produce of that land?

- **Of course.**
- **Even as we were saved** by hearing the Word of God that told us what Jesus had done for us, and we responded to Him by giving Him our lives.
- **Shall we not be nurtured** and fed by this same Word daily?

The idea here is that we need constant nourishment in the Word to sustain our life as a believer.

- **There is no substitution** for Time in the Word of God.
- **If you are not constantly** in the Word of God, you are starving your Spirit to death.
- **Once you first partake of the Word, then** you will have a sufficiency to make it in your life, and an “Out flowing of the Word of God” that will bless other people also.

2 Timothy 2

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,

9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but **the word of God is not chained.**

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Did you know that the Old Testament predicted in detail, over 300 prophecies of who Jesus would be, and what he would do?

- **These prophecies are so detailed** that they name people, places, events as if the person who wrote them was there writing what he observed with His own eyes.
- **You see this was the purpose of prophecy**, that upon examination, you would find that only a supernatural being from outside of time could know these things.
- **These 300 prophecies prove intellectually** beyond any possibility of chance or luck that Jesus is the “Living God” who spoke the universe into existence and then came to earth, became a man like us, and died for us, so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life.

In several of our past studies we looked at some of these 300 prophecies in the Old Testament.

- **We took just 8** of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled with His life.
- **Prophecies** that Jesus would not have had any control over.

1. **Place of birth** (Micah 5:2)
2. **Time of birth** (Daniel 9:25; Genesis 49:10)
3. **How He was Born** (Isaiah 7:14)
4. **Betrayal by a close friend**
5. **The Way He was Killed** (Psalm 22:16)
6. **The people who saw His death**, their reactions (Mocking, spitting, staring, etc.)
7. **The Piercing of His side**
8. **The way He was buried**

Peter Stoner in Science Speaks (Chicago: Moody Press, 1963) determines the probability of **one man fulfilling eight of the prophecies of the Old Testament for the Messiah to be 1 in 10 to the 17th power.**

He cannot deny Himself.

This is put to us in the form of a challenge:

1. **Are you dead to your old life?** Then you will live forever with Jesus.

Romans 8:13

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

2. **Are you trying to endure and hang in there with Jesus?** Then very soon you will reign with him as Kings and Priests in the 1,000 year Millennium.

Revelation 5:10

And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

3. **Are you denying Jesus in your life?** In your words, your actions, in the priorities of your life. **Then He will deny you!**
4. **Even if you are faithless though,** Jesus will remain faithful, because everything in the universe depends upon Him, so He always will prove faithful.

2 Timothy 2

14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

Pastor Chuck Smith is perhaps one of the best Bible teachers that has ever lived. The Lord has gifted him, even at 78 years old, with an incredible ability to recall scripture.

His knowledge of the Bible has come from 60 years of Bible Study, so it is safe to say that he could “Argue” any point of scripture with precision.

One day as I was listening to the Calvary Chapel Network FM Station, pastor Chuck is the host of a program called “**To Every Man an Answer**”, a live call in program everyday at 4 pm where they answer any question about the Bible or life.

A person called and asked Chuck a very controversial question about a particular prophecy of the bible.

Now I have know Chuck for almost 30 years, and I know that Chuck knew the exact answer to the persons question.

The person asked Chuck, “What do you believe pastor Chuck in regards to this verse of Scripture?”

Chuck answered; “I don’t believe in Arguing”

This is exactly what Paul is talking about here in 2 Timothy 2:14

2 Timothy 2

14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord **not to strive about words** to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

1. **We are to defend** the essentials of the Gospel.
2. **Jesus** is the only way to heaven.
3. **Only by a full trust** and commitment to His Sacrifice on the Cross can any person be saved.
4. **The bible is the Word of God**, without error in the original language it was written.
5. **But when we get into areas of the scripture** where they are not essential for Salvation or who Jesus is, then we are not to argue over these to the point of “**Striving**” with each other.
6. **Why?** Because they cause division, and hurt, they do not serve to build up or encourage. In fact, as Paul puts it here, “They serve to ruin those that here these arguments”
7. **So, I do not desire to argue with anyone** about the non essentials of the Bible. I love to discuss everything in the Bible, but I refuse to argue about it.

2 Timothy 2

15 Be diligent to **present yourself approved** to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

This verse is the theme of our study this morning.

1. **That we are told to be “Diligent”** to study, learn and teach others the Bible.
2. **That by our study of the Bible**, we will be able to “**Show our self Approved**”, that is, the correct understanding of all of the Bible is the only thing that equips us to minister to others.
3. **That if we give our self** to the Study of the Bible, we will have from God, all of the answers that people need in their life.
4. **Most Christians and Pastors today do not know all that is in the Bible. Did you know that it is only in the last 200 years that this became true?**

Now it is very important that we understand one of the design characteristics that The Lord build into the Bible.

- **Someone tell me** where the chapter in the Bible is about marriage?
- **How about** the chapter on the Rapture of the Church and the return of the Lord.
- **Those of you** who are students of the Bible you are laughing to yourself because you know that there is no single chapter on either of these subject nor any single chapter on any subject in the Bible.

The Bible is constructed similar to the construction of the DNA of a human being. Every cell of a human being contains the genetic code of the entire human being, this code is spread through the body of the human being.

- **Each subject of life**, the Lord or Eternal life, is inter-dispersed throughout the whole 66 books of the Bible.
- **If you want to be able to find** all that there is on a particular subject, you will have to **DIVIDE UP THE ENTIRE BIBLE**, because every subject is inter-dispersed through the bible.

Now this is truly amazing when you consider that the Bible was written over more than 2,000 years, by every type of author you can imagine. Fisherman, Tax collectors, Lawyers, Doctors, Kings, Shepherds, and even convicted criminals such as Paul.

- **If I gave 10 of you** a single subject and asked you to write an expert opinion of this subject, what would be returned to me?
- **10 different opinions, 10 different viewpoint's** with conflicting views, conflicting ideas right?
- **So how then** could so many different kinds of people, from so many different walks of life, over thousands of years write about the same subjects and be in perfect harmony?

Easy: If you are God!

2 Peter 1:21

for prophecy **never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16

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

What kind of technology did it take to make 125 billion Galaxies like our milky way (*Hubble Telescope*), with 100 billion solar systems in each of those 100 billion Galaxies, like ours? (*Encyclopedia Britannica 2000*)

**The Universe is estimated at 10 billion Light years in Radius (*imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov*)
What kind of creative power did it take to “Speak that into existence” from nothing?**

This means if you could hop onto a beam of light that is traveling at 186,000 miles per second, (671 Million miles per hour, 5, Billion, 880 Million miles per year) it would take you 10 Billion years to travel the Radius of the Universe.

Are you getting my meaning? If you have the kind of power to create this universe, then it is very easy for you to speak through men, your written word, and make sure it gets into one Book exactly the way you want it to be.

Now save yourself allot of time trying to disprove the Bible, That has been tried thousands of times over hundreds of years, and all without success.

Yes there are thousands of claims by those who don't believe there is God, and they have published thousands of books and papers on why they believe the Bible is full of errors.

But not one of them is Valid when held up under scrutiny. The Bible is perfect, without error in every detail as they were written in the original languages.

One of the best books on proving the falseness of the supposed contradiction of the Bible is by Dr. Norman Geisler, "When Critics Ask"

2 Timothy 2

16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.
17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,
18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

You remember that when we studied through the book of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Paul was writing to the Church at Thessalonica, because someone had come after Paul and began to teach that the Rapture had already happened.

Here, teaching that the Resurrection has already past, had the same effect.

1. **If this morning I taught you** that the resurrection had already happened, what would that mean to you, do you know?
2. **If you** "Rightly knew how to divide the Word of God", it would be easy for you.
3. **Question**, do you know where in the bible you could find the scriptures that you could disprove the Resurrection had not taken place?

I am sad to tell you that this morning there are hundreds of people who have given their life to Jesus that are sitting in churches here in Winslow, that are being taught all kinds of false doctrine, and the people don't even have a clue that it is happening.

2 Timothy 2

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "**The Lord knows those who are His,**" and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

Next Sunday we will take up a Special Topical study on 2 Timothy 2:19-26 “**A Vessel for Honor**”

What it means to genuinely belong to Jesus, and Those that Jesus really uses, verses those that get put on the shelf and not used at all.

Do you want your life to have meaning and really count?

You will want to be here for that one...

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