

## “RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH”

### INTRODUCTION

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15**

One may stand before God approved, rather than ashamed, only by handling the Word accurately.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:8**

Since *“the law is good if one uses it lawfully”* it would be dangerous otherwise. When used other than as intended, even God’s word becomes bad.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16**

The apostle acknowledged that those who twist the scriptures do so to their own destruction.

**D. Matthew 4:1-11**

The devil is well versed in scripture and employs it fraudulently.

### I. FIGURES OF SPEECH

**A. Matthew 13:34-35**

It is plainly stated that Jesus spoke in parables, which are comparisons. They should not be interpreted literally.

**B. Galatians 4:21-26**

Paul said he was writing symbolically. Symbols are not literal.

**C. John 16:25**

There is plain language and there is figurative language. We should know the difference.

**D. Matthew 16:5-12**

Jesus is exasperated by disciples who don’t understand figurative language is figurative without being told.

**E. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Revelation 1:12-16, 20**

For those who are patient in their studies, many times the meaning of figures and symbols will be revealed directly.

## II. FULFILLMENT OF PROMISES

### A. **Colossians 1:26; Ephesians 3:4-5; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:10-12**

The mystery of the gospel has been revealed. We should treat it as a mystery no longer.

### B. **Matthew 6:10; Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13**

Jesus taught the disciples to pray for the kingdom to come, and it did! He said it would happen in their lifetime, and it did. We should no longer pray for what has already happened.

### C. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11; Hebrews 1:1-2; Acts 2:16-17**

*"The ends of the ages **have** come"* and *"the last days"* began about two thousand years ago. Using these terms to describe the so-called "end-times" is inconsistent with their intended meanings in scripture.

## III. INCORRECT CONNECTIONS

### A. **Matthew 27:5; Luke 10:37**

Judas *"went and hanged himself"* and Jesus said, *"Go and do likewise"*. Each statement is true, but one has nothing to do with the other.

### B. **Revelation 13:1-4; 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:18, 22; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3**

Scripture refers to *"the Beast"*, *"Antichrist"*, and *"the man of sin"*. Many people want to connect these figures into one entity, but the context does not allow for it.

## IV. CONTRADICTIONS

### A. **Psalms 91:11-12; Deuteronomy 6:16; Matthew 4:5-7**

God appointed angels to protect Christ. God must not be tested by man. Jesus reproved the devil by pointing out that the one passage must not be understood in such a way that the other becomes meaningless.

**B. Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25**

Correctly interpreted, scripture always complements itself. For instance, there are **not** two different creations of mankind recorded. On the contrary, the single creation of man is mentioned twice.

**C. Matthew 27:5; Acts 1:18**

The varying accounts of Judas' death are not contradictions. Each provides greater detail.

**D. Psalm 119:160**

In its totality, God's word is truth. One portion of it cannot be successfully set at odds with another.