
Appendix 2

Study Helps for Accurately Handling The Word of Truth

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

It is very important to handle the word of truth (the Bible) accurately. Among other things, this means to understand the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the shadow, while the New Testament is the reality (Hebrews 10:1). The Old Testament has been “nailed to the cross,” and the New Testament is the law now spiritually binding (Colossians 2:14). The Old Testament is valuable for examples and to demonstrate how God always keeps His promises (1 Corinthians 10:6). God’s promises are made in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. (Study the chart on page 274.)

ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH
2 Timothy 2:15

Old Testament

New Testament

PROMISES MADE

PROMISES FULFILLED

(Genesis 3:15; 12:3)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Kingdom To Be Established (Daniel 2:44) | Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; Luke 22:29, 30; 1 Corinthians 11:23 |
| 2. Lord's House To Be Built (Isaiah 2:2, 3) <i>Will be in "last days"</i> <i>Will begin in Jerusalem</i> <i>All nations admitted</i> | Hebrews 10:21; 1 Timothy 3:15 Acts 2:16, 17; Hebrews 1:1, 2 Luke 24:46, 47; Acts 1:4-8 Acts 2:9; Romans 1:16 |
| 3. Christ Will Be King (Jeremiah 23:5, 6) | Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:29-33 |
| 4. New Covenant Binding (Jeremiah 31:31) | Matthew 16:18, 19; Acts 2:36-38; Hebrews 9:15-17 |
| 5. Holy Spirit To Be Given (Joel 2:28) | Acts 2:16-21 |

**All promises made concerning the church
 are fulfilled in Acts 2, which records the events
 of one day, the Day of Pentecost.**

Every Scripture speaking of the kingdom
BEFORE Acts 2 speaks of it as being
 in the **FUTURE** (Isaiah 2:2-4;
 Micah 4:1, 2; Daniel 2:44;
 Matthew 3:1, 2; 6:9, 10;
 16:18; Mark 9:1).

ACTS 2: PENTECOST

Every Scripture
 speaking of the kingdom
AFTER Acts 2 speaks of it as being
 in **EXISTENCE** (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13, 14).

HOW TO ORGANIZE A NEW CONGREGATION ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

As an Independent Body—Every congregation of the Lord’s church is a separate, independent unit. Never is one congregation over another congregation. There is no organization of churches, nor is there any other organization larger than the local congregation.

As the Body of Christ—In the Bible the church is called “the body of Christ.” In this figure of speech we see that Christ is the “head of the body” (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22). As each member of the physical body has a particular function, so it is with the body of Christ. No member of the church is more important than another. All have their places and contribute to the well-being of the whole body, the church.

With Jesus as the Only Head—Christ is the “head of the church” and as such has all authority (Matthew 28:18). No one is permitted to change the structure of the church in any way, for no one has the authority to do so.

Under the Leadership of Elders—As the local congregation increases in number and spiritual maturity, men from the congregation should be appointed to serve as elders. These men are to be selected by the congregation itself; they are not self-appointed. Elders are also called “shepherds” and serve as guardians of the flock (1 Peter 5:1–5). Qualifications for elders are found in 1 Timothy 3:1–8 and Titus 1:5–8. The church may be established without elders or deacons being appointed. It must exist without them at first, for those who serve in these capacities must be well qualified through years of experience.

With Deacons Appointed to Serve—Men are also appointed to the office of deacons to serve the congregation. They serve under the elders (Philippians 1:1; Acts 20:28). Their qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3:8–13.

THE CHRISTIAN MAN

In many ways, Christian men have the same responsibilities that Christian women have. Both are to attend church services faithfully (Hebrews 10:25), to be liberal in giving (1 Corinthians 16:2), to lead pure lives (James 1:27), to evangelize (Matthew 28:19, 20), to study the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15; see Acts 17:11), and to grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:2).

What the Christian Man Is Not To Do:

1. He is not to abuse his wife and children (Ephesians 5:25–31; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:11).
2. He is not to be violent (Romans 12:18).
3. He is not to be promiscuous (1 Corinthians 6:18, 19).
4. He is not to seek pleasure (2 Timothy 3:4; Titus 3:3).
5. He is not to be unfeeling or unemotional (Luke 22:62; John 11:35; Acts 20:37).

What the Christian Man Is To Do:

1. He is responsible for leadership in the Lord's church (1 Timothy 2:8–15; 1 Corinthians 14:33, 36).
2. He is to lead his family lovingly (Ephesians 5:21–33; Colossians 3:18–21; 1 Peter 3:1–6; 1 Corinthians 11:2–5).
3. He is to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of his family (1 Timothy 5:8).
4. He is to make sure that his children are reared properly (Ephesians 6:4).

NEW TESTAMENT "ROLE MODELS" FOR MEN

1. All Christian men should aspire to meet the qualifications given for leaders in the church. (See page 278.)
2. They should be servant-leaders, like Jesus (Luke 22:27).
3. Like Barnabas, men can be generous with financial gifts and encouraging words (Acts 4:36, 37).
4. Like Philemon, men can open their homes to fellow Christians (Philemon 2) and can set aside personal differences to do what is best for the brethren (Philemon 10–20).

THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN

What the Christian Woman Cannot Scripturally Do:

1. She is restricted from exercising leadership in the assembly of the church (1 Corinthians 14:34, 35; see 14:19, 23, 26, 28). Preachers speak in the assembly, so Christian women are not to serve as preachers.
2. She is restricted from having authority over men; therefore, she cannot serve as an elder or a deacon (1 Timothy 2:12; 3:2).
3. She is restricted from appearing to reject the authority of her husband (1 Corinthians 11).

What the Christian Woman Can Scripturally Do:

1. She is not restricted from leading in activities in which she will not have authority over men.
2. She is not restricted from teaching other women or children. In some situations she may teach, or help to teach, men (Acts 18:24–28; Titus 2:4).
3. She is not restricted from doing personal work, from leading individuals to Christ.
4. She is not restricted from working for the church, even receiving pay, in any job that is scripturally right for her to do.

NEW TESTAMENT “ROLE MODELS” FOR WOMEN

1. Women accompanied Jesus and helped to support Him financially in His teaching (Matthew 27:55; Luke 8:1–3).
2. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, listened to the Lord’s word, seated at His feet (Luke 10:39, 42).
3. Mary Magdalene was a devoted follower of Jesus, eager to tell others about the risen Lord (John 20:1–18).
4. Dorcas, or Tabitha, did “deeds of kindness and charity” (Acts 9:36).
5. Phoebe was “a servant of the church,” a helper to Paul (Romans 16:1, 2).
6. Priscilla was a faithful wife, an apostle’s fellow worker, and a missionary. With her husband, she hosted the church in her own home. (See Romans 16:3–5; Acts 18:1–3, 24–28.)

**WHAT ELDERS ARE TO BE,
ALL CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE**

| <u>Elders</u> | <u>Characteristic</u> | <u>All Christians</u> |
|---------------|---|---|
| 1 Timothy 3:2 | <i>Above reproach (blameless)</i> | 1 Timothy 5:7; 6:14 |
| 1 Timothy 3:2 | <i>Temperate (vigilant)</i> | 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8 |
| 1 Timothy 3:2 | <i>Prudent (sensible; sober)</i> | Titus 2:2, 5; Romans 12:3 |
| 1 Timothy 3:2 | <i>Hospitable</i> | Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2 |
| 1 Timothy 3:2 | <i>Able to teach</i> | Hebrews 5:12 |
| 1 Timothy 3:3 | <i>Not addicted to wine (no drunkard)</i> | Titus 2:3; Ephesians 5:18 |
| 1 Timothy 3:3 | <i>Gentle (patient)</i> | Philippians 4:5; Colossians 3:13; Titus 3:2 |
| 1 Timothy 3:3 | <i>Uncontentious (not quarrelsome; not a brawler)</i> | James 4:2; 2 Timothy 2:24 |
| 1 Timothy 3:3 | <i>No lover of money</i> | 1 Timothy 6:10; 2 Timothy 3:2 |
| 1 Timothy 3:4 | <i>Having submissive, respectful children</i> | Ephesians 6:1–4 |
| 1 Timothy 3:7 | <i>Well thought of by outsiders</i> | 1 Peter 2:12–16 |
| Titus 1:8 | <i>Just (upright)</i> | Colossians 4:1 |
| Titus 1:8 | <i>Devout (holy)</i> | Ephesians 4:24; 1 Timothy 2:8 |
| Titus 1:8 | <i>Self-controlled (temperate)</i> | Galatians 5:23 |

Elders do have three qualifications which are not required of all Christians. The elder is to be the “husband of one wife,” must have “children who believe,” and is not to be “a new convert” (1 Timothy 3:2, 6; Titus 1:6). (While the married Christian is to have one spouse only, an unmarried man or woman may also become a Christian.)