RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE TRUTH
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2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth
not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

In this scripture is an inspired command to study. Moreover, we note that we are to study to show ourselves approved unto God--implying that those who neglect to study God's word do not have God's approval. This fact becomes even more evident in the phrase, "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." Hence, it is apparent that the study of the word of God is a command, that it is necessary to be approved of God, and that those who refuse to do so have ample reason to be ashamed.

However, from this same scripture, we note also that we are to rightly divide the word of truth. The very fact that we are commanded to rightly divide the word of truth necessarily infers the possibility of wrongly dividing the word. The nature of that which we are to study is herein affirmed; it is called "the word of truth." This same affirmation was made by Jesus Christ during the days of his earthly ministry, for in John 17:17, he prayed on behalf of His disciples, saying, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

So God's word is truth; it has always been true, and it always shall be true, and it must be rightly divided. Regarding the command to rightly divide the word of truth, we call your attention to Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds" (NKJV). From this scripture, we learn that we are in the last days, or the last dispensation, and that God's spokesman now is His son. No longer do we live during the days of the patriarchs; no longer is the law of Moses binding. God speaks to us through His son and in Hebrews 9:15 we learn that His son is the mediator of the New Testament--the portion of God's word which is now in effect and binding on all people.