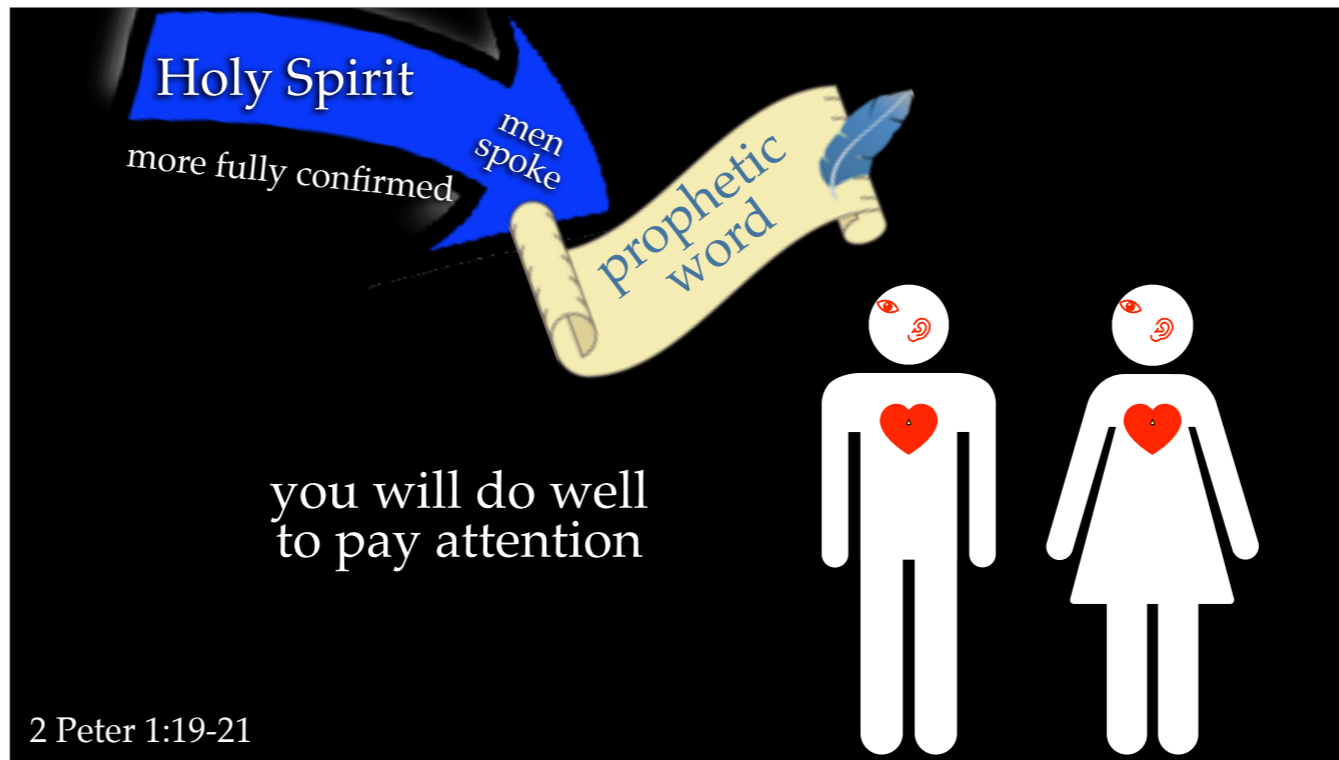




- False Teachers (claiming they are speaking for God)
- Scoffers (deriding and mocking what God has said and promised)
- Those who twist the scriptures
 - This is very common
 - Perhaps the most difficult for us



- The Giving of the Scriptures
- 2 Peter 1:19-21
 - And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed,
 - to which you will do well to pay attention
 - as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
 - until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,
 - 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.
 - 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man,
 - but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



- Chapter 1: Knowledge of Jesus — life and godliness (3)
 - fruitful (8)
- Chapter 2:
 - escape defilements of the world

Struggling with Understanding the Scriptures



- Struggling to Understand the Scriptures

Struggling with Understanding the Scriptures

helped the people to understand
the Law ... so that the people
understood the reading.

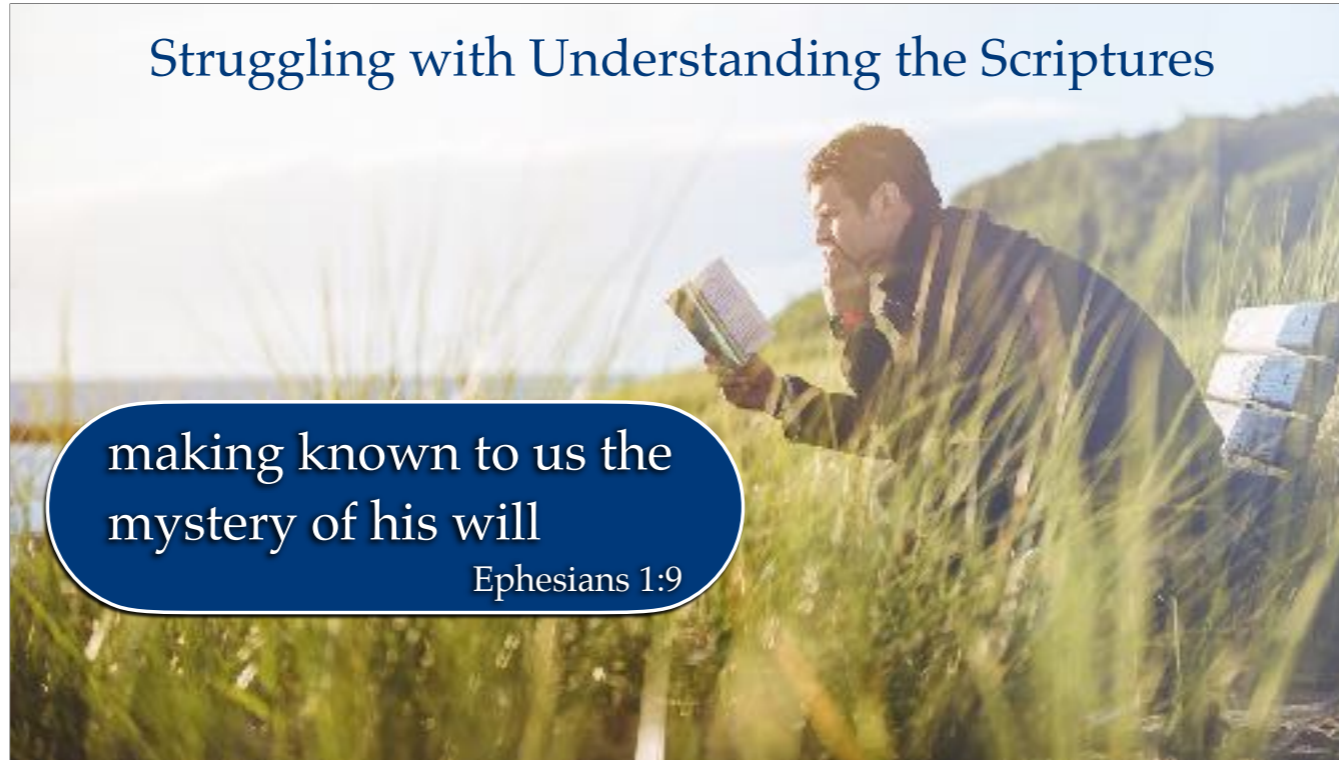
Nehemiah 8:7-8

- Nehemiah
 - Nehemiah 8:7-8: the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

Struggling with Understanding the Scriptures

making known to us the
mystery of his will

Ephesians 1:9



- Struggling to Understand the Scriptures

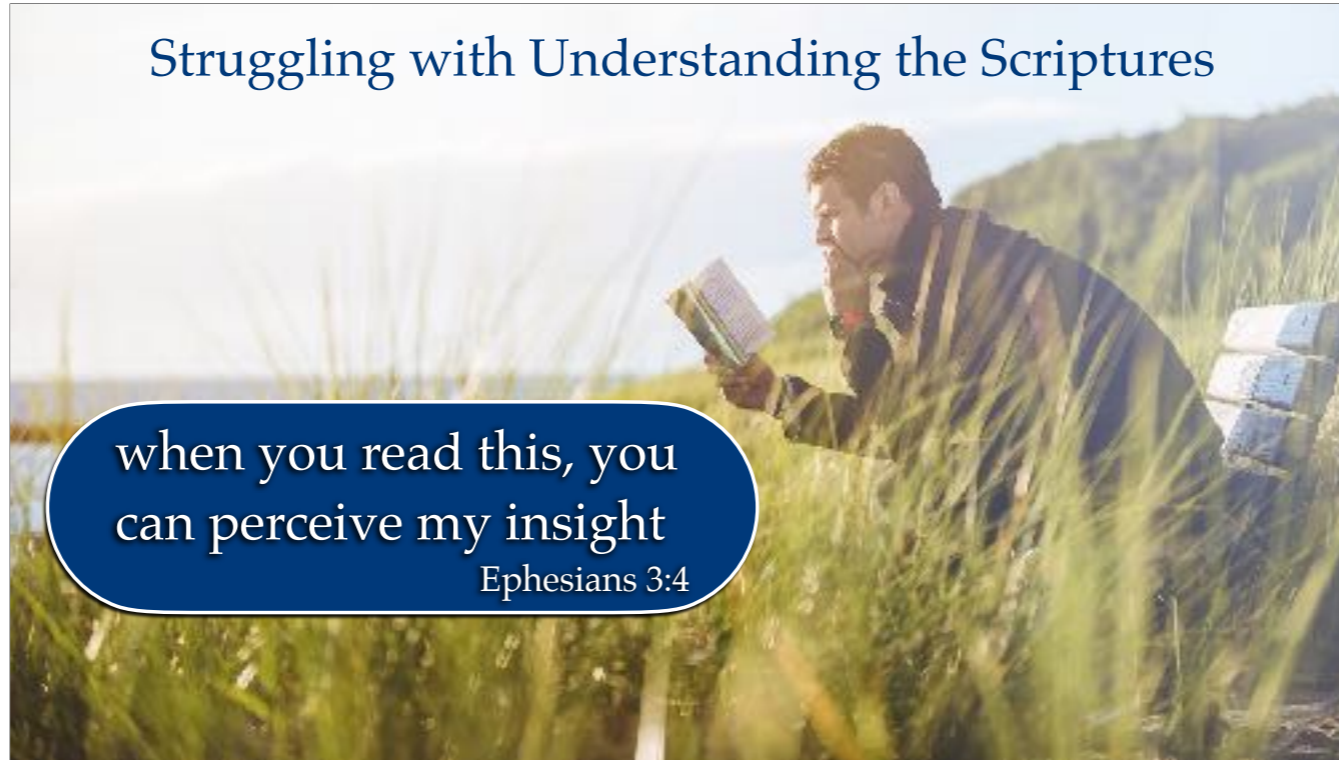
- Paul

- Ephesians 1:8-9 (ESV) 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

Struggling with Understanding the Scriptures

when you read this, you
can perceive my insight

Ephesians 3:4



- Ephesians 3:3-5 (ESV) 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Struggling with Understanding the Scriptures

He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does Jehovah require of you

Micah 6:8

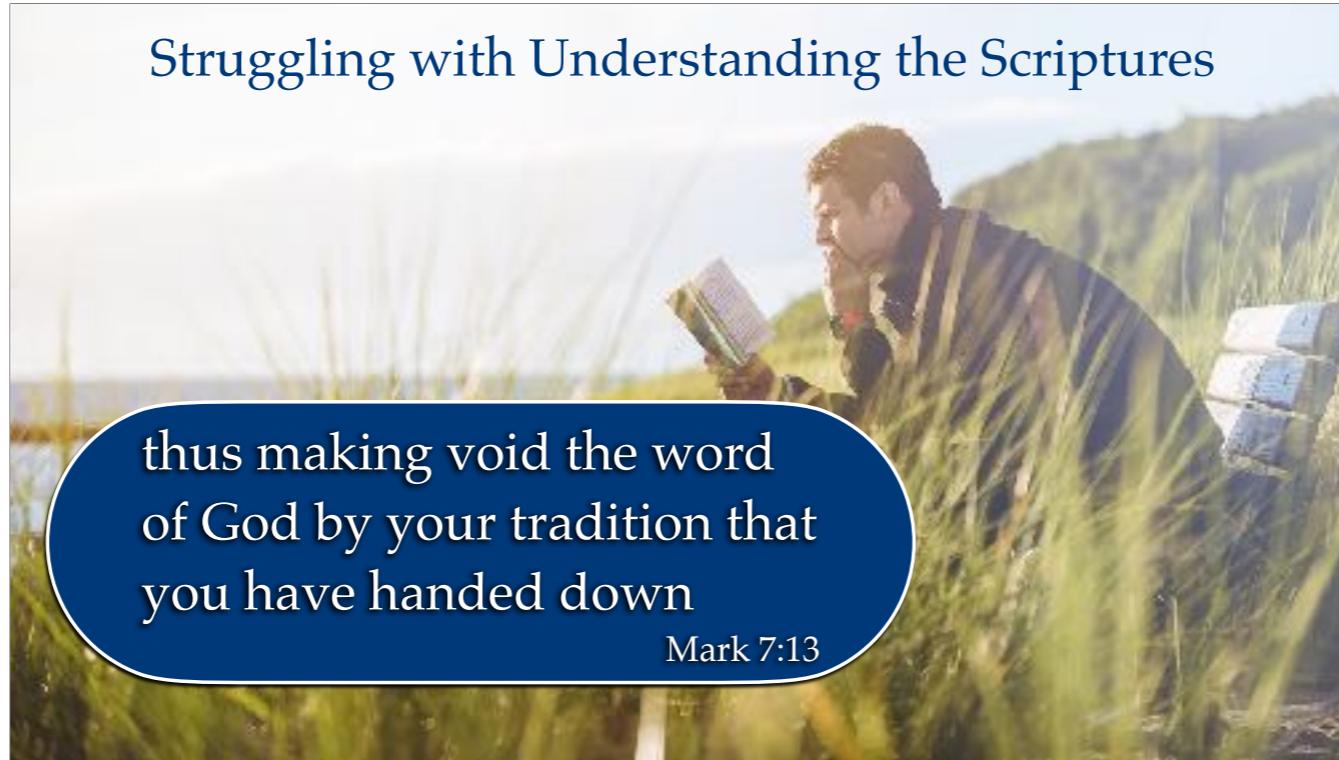
- Micah 6:6-8 (ESV)

- 6 “With what shall I come before the LORD,
- and bow myself before God on high?
- Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
- with calves a year old?
- 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
- with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
- Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
- the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- 8 He has told you, O man, what is good;
- and what does the LORD require of you
- but to do justice, and to love kindness,
- and to walk humbly with your God?

Struggling with Understanding the Scriptures

thus making void the word
of God by your tradition that
you have handed down

Mark 7:13



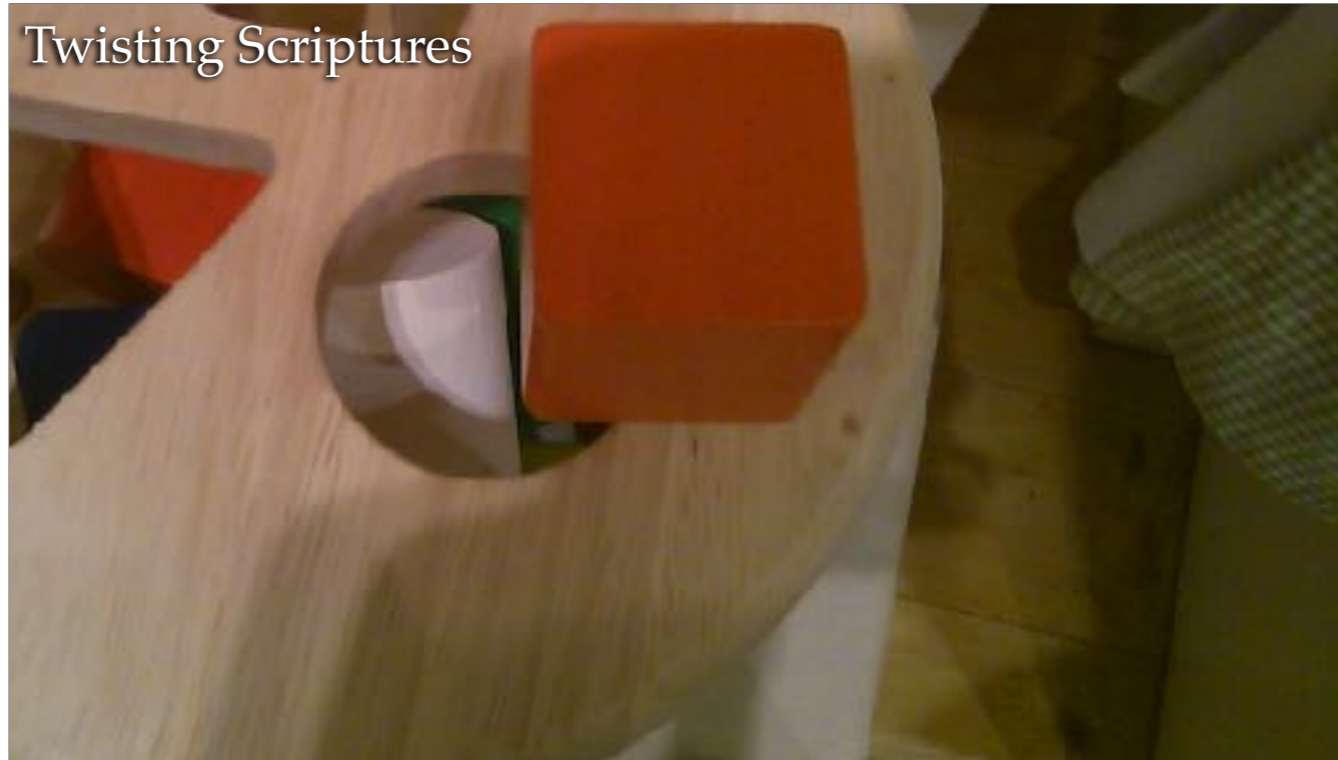
- Pharisees
 - Mark 7:10-13 (ESV) 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God)— 12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, 13 thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

Hard to Understand



- Why would God let some things be hard to understand???
 - Communication can be difficult.
- When Jesus was teaching
 - It was often amazing to the people.
 - But how often did the people fail to understand?
 - How often did the disciples fail to understand?
 - Was the problem with the teacher?
- We also have the added difficulty of a variety because of translation from Greek to other languages and a great span of time.
- The fact that an inspire apostle struggles ... don't feel bad if you struggle.
- What do we do?

Twisting Scriptures



- The Danger: Some will twist scriptures
 - to their own destruction
 - Scriptures were given to us to help us
 - But if we misuse them: we harm ourselves
 - At least to some extent this is because we deceive ourselves
 - Thinking that we understand the scriptures better than others, we are closer to the truth.



- What does it mean to “twist”
 - Twist
 - Lenski:
 - “torture” them, “put them to the rack”
 - force them ... to say what their torturers want them to say (355)
 - Barnes
 - a turning out of the way by the application of force
 - apply those portions of the Bible to a purpose for which they were never intended

Twisting Scriptures

“torture” & “force them ... to say
what tortures want them to say”
(Lenski)

ignorant

unstable

lawless

- The problem is rooted in the individual though
 - Instead of trying to understand, they force
 - Because they are
 - Ignorant - unlearned
 - Unstable - unsettled, unsteady
 - TDNT: 'unsupported,' 'weak,'
 - Often see this allusion to those weak in the faith; or young in the faith



Twisting Scriptures

“torture” & “force them ... to say
what tortures want them to say”
(Lenski)

ignorant

unstable

lawless

- Lawless
 - (CWSB Dictionary) Lawless, unprincipled, not in conformity to acceptable custom.
 - it refers to those who deviate from conduct that is accepted as good and adopted as a law or rule of custom
 - A better translation of the word would be nefarious, that which is contrary to what is right, i.e., illegal.

Twisting Scriptures

desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions

1 Timothy 5:7

ignorant

unstable

lawless

- 1 Timothy 1:5-7 (ESV) 5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Twisting Scriptures

If anyone teaches a different doctrine ... he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

1 Timothy 6:3-4

ignorant

unstable

lawless

- 1 Timothy 6:3-5 (ESV) 3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Twisting Scriptures

always learning and never able to
arrive at a knowledge of the truth
2 Timothy 3:7

ignorant

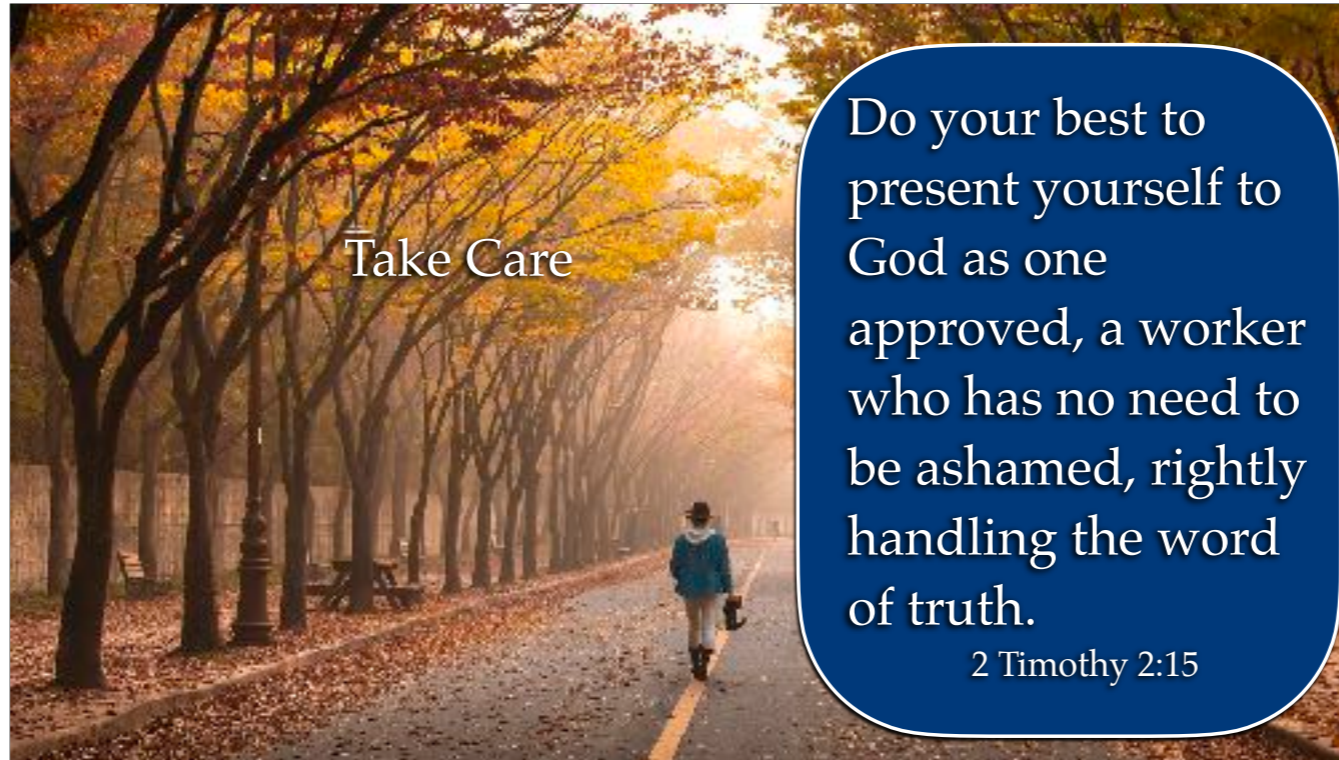
unstable

lawless

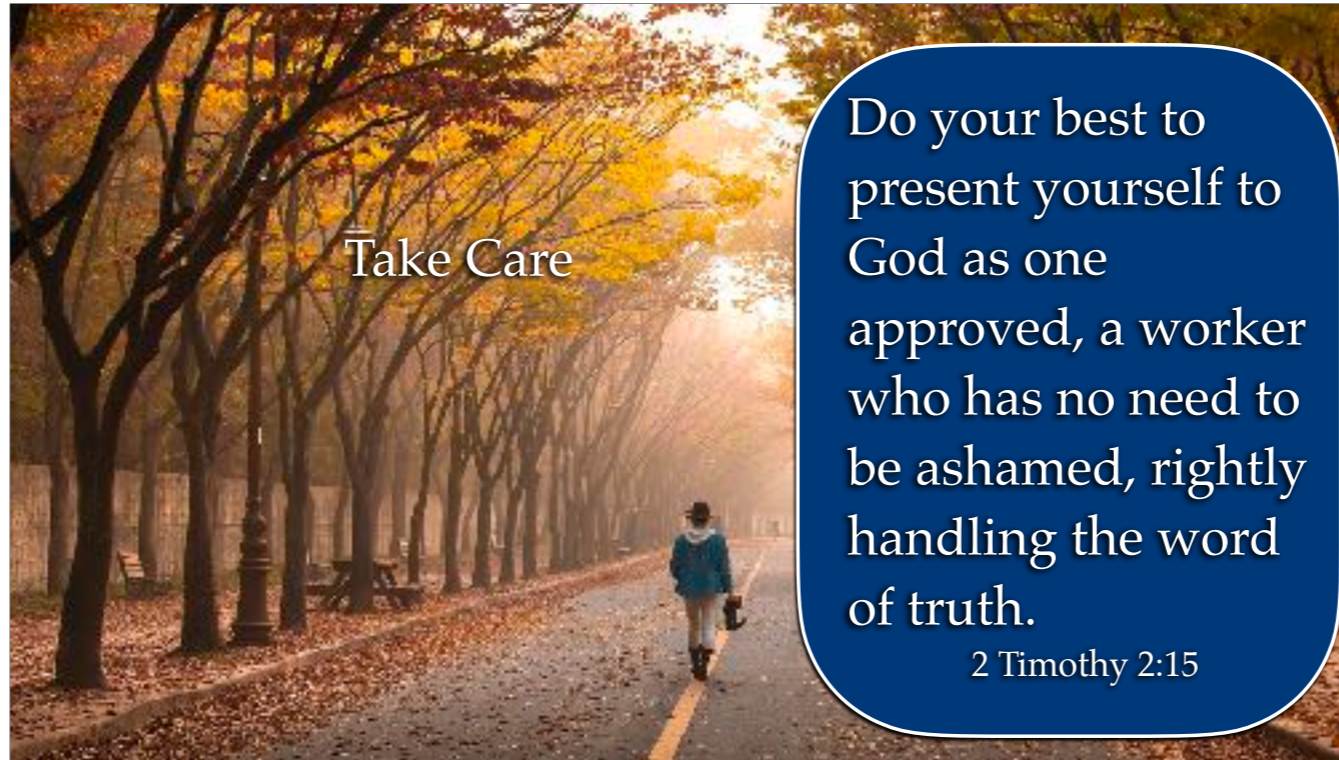
- 2 Timothy 3:7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.



- Take Care — on guard
 - Why?
 - twist to their own destruction,
 - but you could get caught up in it too
 - Carried away with the error
 - lose your own stability
- Who are you listening to?
 - Why?
 - Confirm bias?



- A Worker
 - 2 Timothy 2:15: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
 - Not ashamed: Vincent: A workman whose work does not disgrace him.
 - RWP: cutting straight:
 - Since Paul was a tent-maker and knew how to cut straight the rough camel-hair cloth, why not let that be the metaphor?
 - Certainly plenty of exegesis is crooked enough (crazy-quilt patterns) to call for careful cutting to set it straight.



- Lenski, 798-799, "(ever) cutting straight the Word of the truth."
 - God's Word they cut and slash as if it were the word of men.
 - The eternal truth they cut up as being so many "outworn categories of thought" to be made over into something that is thought to be modern, up-to-date.
- Word of Truth, Scriptures, Bible... These are the words of God, not man!
 - 2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
- Prayer

Waiting for His Coming



- Waiting for Jesus to come is not a passive activity.
 - And
- Found by him
 - Like the virgins waiting for the bridegroom (Matthew 25)

Waiting for His Coming

without spot or blemish



- Without spot or blemish — purity before God through Jesus Christ
 - This is not just not sinning
 - This is about striving to be righteous before God
 - have his character: be like him

Waiting for His Coming

at peace



- at peace — with God? my own peace? or with brethren?
 - considering all the warnings in this passage: unstable, carried away, your own stability
 - it would seem that possibly Peter is focused on my own peace
 - The stability of my faith in Him, my knowledge, my reliance on his grace.

Waiting for His Coming

grow in grace



- grow in grace
 - First letter emphasized grace ...
 - We often don't think about growing in grace
 - grace is the favor that God gives us, how can we grow in it?
 - Good question.
 - The truth is, for many, that we don't even think about it or try.
 - The assurance of being in a relationship with our father in which we are confident that we have his favor.
 - We are aware of our own failings
 - But we are just as aware of his favor in Christ

Waiting for His Coming

grow in knowledge



- grow in knowledge
 - More comfortable here
 - But how seriously do we take it?
 - Peter points us to the glory and excellence and divine nature.
 - Knowledge, wisdom, insight and understanding from God
 - Don't just read and study for the facts
 - Do it to grow and learn to mature to become like Jesus

True Grace

- In these two letters, Peter has taken us on a powerful journey of understanding true grace.
- In the difficult circumstances when we are out of our normal environment
 - We have the joy of living in the grace of God
 - And sharing it with the world
- We have the knowledge:
 - And so can overcome those who would turn us away from our Savior's true grace.
- True Grace

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Turn off recording.
Blank projector.
Save Keynote.
Switch HDMI

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True Grace

#16

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2024 June 2

www.1corinthians1614.com

Twisters

2 Peter 3

Synopsis: Because some scriptures are hard to understand and some will force them to say things God never intended, Peter warns us to take care.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”