

# GROWING DEEP IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS

HANDLING THE SCRIPTURES ACCURATELY  
NEHEMIAH 8:1–6, 8–18; MATTHEW 15:1–14; 16:5–12



## The Heart of the Matter

“You can prove anything you wish from the Bible!” Have you ever heard someone say that? Probably so. For the most part, it is true. If a person really wants to find biblical “justification” for some belief or activity and is willing to use half-verses, take passages out of context, and twist the meaning of various terms, then he or she can “prove” just about anything from Scripture. Because of this, we need to develop good habits and cultivate correct methods of handling the Word of God. There are a few rules to remember, certain techniques to employ, and several practical principles to keep in mind if we wish to interpret Scripture accurately.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. The Problem: Mishandling the Bible

Mishandling Scripture is as old as the Bible and is a major disease in the church today.

### 2. Our Need: Maintaining the Meaning (Selected Scriptures from Matthew)

Jesus addressed head-on the Pharisees and His disciples in regard to the mishandling of Scripture.

### 3. An Example: Ezra and the Scroll (Nehemiah 8:1–6, 8–18)

Ezra is a perfect example of how to handle Scripture accurately.



## Starting Your Journey

When handling Scripture, keep these five principles in mind. First, never forget *what* you are handling—God’s Word. This will keep you sensitive. Second, always remember *who* has the authority—the Lord. This will keep you humble. Third, never forget *why* you are teaching—to explain the meaning of the Scripture. This will keep you accurate. Fourth, think about *where* in life the people whom you teach are—their background, culture, and knowledge. This will keep you interesting. Finally, focus on *when* the teaching ends, thinking about its application. This will keep you practical.



## Tools for Digging Deeper



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