CORRECTLY HANDLE THE WORD OF TRUTH

2 Timothy 2:15

1. Note the context: What problem in the ministry in Ephesus did Paul address? (See verses 14,16–17a,23; cf. 1Ti1:3–4; 6:4) In contrast, what was Timothy to do, and why? (Read verse 15; compare with 1Ti4:16) In light of this, how can we prepare ourselves to be Bible teachers?
2. Note some other places where Paul mentions “the truth” (1Ti2:4; 3:15; 4:3; 6:5; 2Ti2:25; Tit1:1). Why is the truth so important? What did he ultimately mean by his expression “the word of truth”? (Eph1:13; Col1:5; Jas1:18; cf. Jn17:17; Heb4:12)
3. What does it mean to “correctly handle” the word of truth? (2Co2:17; 4:2) To understand this, see also Jesus’ example in Mark 4:33, Paul’s example in 1 Corinthians 3:1–2, and the teaching in Hebrews 5:11–14.
4. Note how Jesus focused his ministry on giving people God’s word and encouraging them to believe and obey it (Lk4:32; 5:1; 6:47–49; 8:11–15,21; 11:28; 21:33).
5. Note how the apostles also focused on the ministry of the word, and how God blessed this (Ac6:2,4,7). Note how Paul did so as well, and how God blessed it (Ac13:5,44–49; 18:11; 19:9–10). Why did he focus on God’s word? (Ac20:32) Why is it important to give people God’s word faithfully? (Lk12:42)
6. Review what we learn in this study about correctly handling the word of truth and why this is so important, especially in ministry to college students.