

It was Miles Coverdale, who gave us our first complete translation of the Bible, who had in the fly-leaf of his Bible the following words concerning the laws of interpretation:

“It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture, if you mark not only what is spoken, or written, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, considering what goes before, and what follows”.



The following are internal laws for studying scripture that enable the Bible student to get the proper interpretation:

1. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:16)
2. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God *that the man of God may be perfect (fitted), thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (II Timothy 3:16)
3. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the Word of truth* (II Timothy 2:15)
4. No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (II Peter 1:20)
5. The dispensation of God which is given to me (Paul) for you to fulfil (complete, fill to the full so no more can be added) the Word of God; even the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but is now manifest to His saints. (Colossians 1:25,26)
6. I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this man, 'Go', and he goeth, and to another 'Come', and he cometh; and to my servant, 'Do this', and he doeth it...". When Jesus heard this he marvelled and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:8-10). This is to show that all authority is under authority and the word of God is the final authority.
7. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17)
8. That you may approve the things that are (more) excellent (Philippians 1:10) comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13).

Spiritual Quadrants

Right thing Wrong

Wrong Division
 Truth for yesterday
 Heb 5:12-14
 2 Sam 6:6-7, Num 4:15
 Heb 8:8

Right thing Right

“Right Division”
 Truth for today
 2 Tim 2:15
 2 Tim 3:16,17
 Eph 3:1-9
 Col 1:25-26

Wrong thing Wrong

Curses God
 Open Rebellion
 The Lost Sinner
 Rom 3:10, 23
 Prov 6:11-14
 Prov 17:11
 Psalm 14:1

Wrong thing Right

Superficial Religion
 False Worship
 False Prayer
 Matt 15:7-9
 Matt 7:22,23
 Luke 8:11-15

Wrong thing Wrong

This category applies to the lost sinner who is at odds with God. It includes those who are in open rebellion and curses God.

Romans 3:10 KJV

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 KJV

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Prov 6:11-14 KJV

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.
 12 A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.
 13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;
 14 Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

Proverbs 17:11 KJV

11 An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

Ps 14:1 KJV

1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

Wrong thing Right

This category involves superficial religion, involving groups that practice false worship and false prayer and practice these things to make themselves look good and they usually do it for money and power.

Matt 15:7-9 KJV

- 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.
9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Matt 7:22-23 KJV

- 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Luke 8:11-15 KJV

- 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Right thing Wrong

Wrong division is trying to apply truth in scripture but the message or instructions were given to someone else and does not apply to us today. e.g. Noah: build an ark and save your family.

Heb 5:12-14 KJV

- 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.
14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Numbers 4:15 KJV

- 15 And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

2 Samuel 6:6-7 KJV

- 6 And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.
7 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

Heb 8:8 KJV

- 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Right thing Right

This category is what we strive to practice as workmen who study the scriptures to find truth that applies to us today.

2 Timothy 2:15 KJV

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Ephesians 3:1-9 KJV

1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward:

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:25-28 KJV

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:



Although some things today appear to be outrageous, how can the Christian take a position on any issue that claims to be out of the Bible or received from God? How do we ensure that we do the right thing right?

The principles of right division give the Bible student a compass and a rudder to study scripture and protect from error... by navigating through the Bible knowing what pertains to whom, and when.

All scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness therefore, the Christian is lacking nothing to study and be approved unto God (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16,17).

When you study the Bible, you must compare scripture with scripture (Phil 1:10) to arrive at the scriptures interpretation of what is being said. If you don't then you may take the word of God out of context and arrive at your own interpretation full of error (2 Peter 1:20).

Scriptural Babies – A problem

Heb 5:12-14 (KJV)

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Spiritual Nutrition – We Need to Grow Up

2 Tim 3:16-17(KJV)

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Good news... as all scripture leads to a balanced diet that helps the Christian grow strong. However, there are cooking instructions for accurately preparing each meal to ensure proper digestion otherwise heartburn will result.

2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)

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

Cooking Instructions for proper digestion and interpretation call for comparing everything you pick up with the other food items of the same kind. This ensures the freshest ingredients for using when applying any recipe.

1 Cor 2:13

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Spiritual Exercise – Bible Aerobics

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Compare the Scriptures</u>		<u>What Happened</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Eat Meat	Genesis 1:29-31	Genesis 9:1-3 1 Tim 4:3	Commandment to eat meat was given after the flood.	Last orders supercede all previous orders. Eat meat
	Eat vegetables and fruit	Eat meat		
Baptism or Baptize	See Below	See Below	Baptism, Baptize Washing with water Priestly activity	One baptism today... by the Holy Spirit upon salvation

An Example of Right Division - Baptism

Matt 3:1-6

3 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

So what about baptism? Let's look at the scriptures and find our study material. Using a concordance, we find there are 22 occurrences in the bible of the word "baptism"

Concordance		
22 matches in KJV for "baptism"		
Reference	Context	Strongs
Matt 3:7	of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O	908
Matt 20:22	drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They	908
Matt 20:23	of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit	908
Matt 21:25	The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they	908
Mark 1:4	in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of	908
Mark 10:38	cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?	908
Mark 10:39	of the cup that I drink of, and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall	908
Mark 11:30	The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me.	908
Luke 3:3	country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission	908
Luke 7:29	him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.	908
Luke 12:50	But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be	908
Luke 20:4	The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?	908
Acts 1:22	Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up	908
Acts 10:37	all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;	908
Acts 13:24	first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of	908
Acts 18:25	and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.	908
Acts 19:3	them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.	908
Acts 19:4	said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto	908
Rom 6:4	Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was	908
Eph 4:5	One Lord, one faith, one baptism,	908
Col 2:12	Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the	908
1 Peter 3:21	The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the	908

There are 9 occurrences in the bible for the word baptize”

Concordance		
9 matches in KJV for "baptize"		
Reference	Context	Strongs
Matt 3:11	I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is	907
Matt 3:11	shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and	907
Mark 1:4	John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the	907
Mark 1:8	have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.	907
Luke 3:16	saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I	907
Luke 3:16	shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and	907
John 1:26	John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one	907
John 1:33	I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto	907
1 Cor 1:17	For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of	907

Now looking up the Strong's Greek/Hebrew definitions, we find more clue's to the meaning of the word:

NT:907 (Strong's)
<p>baptizo (bap-tid'-zo); from a derivative of NT:911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism:</p> <p>KJV - Baptist, baptize, wash.</p>

NT:910 (Strong's)
<p>Baptistes (bap-tis-tace'); from NT:907; a baptizer, as an epithet of Christ's forerunner:</p> <p>KJV - Baptist.</p>

Strong's Greek/Hebrew Definitions
<p>bapto (bap'-to); a primary verb; to overwhelm, i.e. cover wholly with a fluid; in the N. T. only in a qualified or specially, sense, i.e. (literally) to moisten (a part of one's person), or (by implication) to stain (as with dye):</p> <p>KJV - dip.</p>

So, based on these findings, we can search on the words "wash + water" together

Concordance		
77 matches in KJV for "wash + water"		
Reference	Context	Strongs
Gen 18:4	Let a little water , I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest	4325 ▲
Gen 18:4	a little water , I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest	7364
Gen 24:32	and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet	4325
Gen 24:32	provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that	7364
Ex 29:4	door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water .	7364
Ex 29:4	door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water .	4325
Ex 30:18	of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it	7364
Ex 30:18	tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water	4325
Ex 30:20	of the congregation, they shall wash with water , that they die not; or when	7364
Ex 30:20	congregation, they shall wash with water , that they die not; or when they	4325
Ex 40:12	the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water .	7364
Ex 40:12	the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water .	4325
Ex 40:30	tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.	4325
Ex 40:30	tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.	7364
Lev 1:9	But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water : and the priest shall burn	7364
Lev 1:9	inwards and his legs shall he wash in water : and the priest shall burn all on	4325
Lev 1:13	But he shall wash the inwards and the legs with water : and the priest shall	7364
Lev 1:13	wash the inwards and the legs with water : and the priest shall bring it all,	4325
Lev 14:8	And he that is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, and shave off all his	3526
Lev 14:8	clothes, and shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water , that he may be	7364
Lev 14:8	off all his hair, and wash himself in water , that he may be clean: and after	4325
Lev 14:9	his hair he shall shave off: and he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash	3526
Lev 14:9	he shall wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water , and he shall	7364
Lev 14:9	wash his clothes, also he shall wash his flesh in water , and he shall be clean.	4325
Lev 15:5	whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:5	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:6	he sat that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water ,	3526
Lev 15:6	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:7	flesh of him that hath the issue shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:7	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:8	upon him that is clean; then he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:8	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:10	that beareth any of those things shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:10	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325

Concordance		
77 matches in KJV for "wash + water"		
Reference	Context	Strongs
Lev 15:11	issue, and hath not rinsed his hands in water , he shall wash his clothes, and	4325
Lev 15:11	not rinsed his hands in water , he shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself	3526
Lev 15:11	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:13	seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in	3526
Lev 15:13	wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water , and shall be clean.	4325
Lev 15:16	copulation go out from him, then he shall wash all his flesh in water , and be	7364
Lev 15:16	him, then he shall wash all his flesh in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:21	whosoever toucheth her bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:21	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:22	any thing that she sat upon shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:22	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 15:27	things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 15:27	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even.	4325
Lev 16:4	are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water , and so put	7364
Lev 16:4	holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water , and so put them	4325
Lev 16:24	And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his	7364
Lev 16:24	And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his	4325
Lev 16:26	let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh	3526
Lev 16:26	wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water , and afterward come into the	4325
Lev 16:28	And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in	3526
Lev 16:28	wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water , and afterward he shall come	4325
Lev 17:15	country, or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Lev 17:15	wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and be unclean until the even:	4325
Lev 22:6	and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water .	7364
Lev 22:6	and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water .	4325
Num 8:7	unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let	4325
Num 8:7	let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make	3526
Num 19:7	Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water ,	3526
Num 19:7	his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water , and afterward he shall	4325
Num 19:8	And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water , and bathe his flesh	3526
Num 19:8	that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water , and bathe his flesh in	4325
Num 19:8	clothes in water , and bathe his flesh in water , and shall be unclean until the	4325
Num 19:19	day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in	3526
Num 19:19	and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water , and shall be clean at even.	4325
Num 19:21	unto them, that he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his	4325
Num 19:21	he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his clothes; and he that	3526
Num 19:21	his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of separation shall be unclean	4325
Deut 23:11	be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water : and when	7364
Deut 23:11	cometh on, he shall wash himself with water : and when the sun is down, he	4325
Job 9:30	If I wash myself with snow water , and make my hands never so clean;	7364
Job 9:30	If I wash myself with snow water , and make my hands never so clean;	4325
John 13:5	After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples'	5204
John 13:5	water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them	3538

Conclusion

It was part of the history of Israel to have the Priests (starting with Aaron and his sons) wash with water to prepare their offering and their bodies for the priestly activity.

1 Pet 2:9 (KJV)

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

In the New Testament the call to the nation of Israel was to be a generation of priests, a holy nation, resulting in the evangelizing of the nations... this activity is part of the Kingdom of Heaven (Gen 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; Zech 8:23; Gal 3:8; Rev 21:10-27, 22:1-2)

John the Baptist lead the call for the nation of Israel to repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand:

Matt 3:1-2 (KJV)

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The King and Kingdom were rejected. God has these plans on hold waiting for His time to begin the prophetic clock with the return of Elijah (Mal 4:4-6). With this suspension, the activity of water baptism is now a dead work (wrong thing right when applied to us today).

Today, when we accept Christ as our Saviour, we participate in just **one baptism and this baptism is with the Holy Spirit who we are sealed with until the day of redemption:**

Eph 4:4-6 KJV

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Eph 1:13-14 KJV

3 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Eph 4:30 KJV

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

In conclusion, let us accept the truth that water washing do not apply today and rejoice in the fact that we are complete in Christ.

Col 2:10-14 KJV

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:
12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;