



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 39  
Issue 960

### An Illustration of "Rightly Dividing"

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the Word of Truth (II Timothy 2:15).

Endeavor to present yourself to God qualified, an unashamed worker, **correctly partitioning** the Word of Truth (CV, 1930).

“**R**ightly dividing the Word of Truth” (II Timothy 2:15), or “correctly partitioning” is key to understanding Scripture. It is simply seeking to make a difference where God makes a difference. Such Scripture analysis requires one to be a dedicated “workman” to search out divine distinctions. Similarity implies differences, and while there are many similarities between certain things in Scripture, **things that are similar are not the same.**



States, from Maine to Florida.

Yet, while I-95 and US-1 have many similarities, to say that they are identical, or the same highway, would be to drastically overstate the case, and would be a serious error.

In some places these two highways share the same pavement, so that they would appear to be the same highway.



However, in other places they are more than 100 miles apart (in Georgia and South Carolina).

Despite their many similarities, there are also many more distinctions between these two highways. For example I-95 and US-1 take turns being east and west of each other. Through much of

(continued on page 8099)

Consider with me an illustration of “rightly dividing” or “correctly partitioning.” Let me ask you a trivia question:

What highway runs north to south through the eastern coastal states of the United States, from Maine to Florida?

The most common answer given is I-95. But if asked further, “Is there still another highway that meets this description?” Some will answer US-1. Of course, both answers are correct. The fact is that both I-95 and US-1 run north to south through the eastern coastal states of the United

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### Bible Student's Notebook™

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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*Scripture education in a weekly format!*

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
  - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

*We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar*

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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill

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Florida US-1 runs right along the coast. Yet in other places it can be some 200 miles from the coast (GA & SC).

To say that someone lived right off of US-1, or that someone lived right off of I-95 could be as much of a difference as 100 miles east to west, and 165 miles north to south!



West, FL, while I-95 runs 1,908 miles from the Canadian border to Miami, FL. This is a 462-mile difference.

A great principle of Scripture study is found in an important phrase from Philippians 1:10.

*“distinguish the difference” (FF)*

*“distinguish the things*

*that differ” (GLT).*

*“examine you the things differing” (ED)*

*“proving the things that differ” (YLT, LSV).*

*“test the things that differ” (REB).*

*“testing things that differ” (MCT).*

*“try things that differ” (JWNT).*

Let’s consider other distinctions.

US-1 was laid out in 1926, while I-95 was laid out in 1957. This is a 31-year difference.

US-1 runs 2,370 miles from Fort Kent, ME to Key



### **Critical Lexicon & Concordance to the English & Greek New Testament**

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

1040 pages, HC – See [order form](#) under “Bullinger.”

English words appear in alphabetical order along with the equivalent Greek words, their literal and derivative meanings, and a list of passages in which they appear. Includes a comprehensive Greek-English index. A key reference work in the study of the Scriptures.

It is crucial to knowing the truth that we learn to make a difference when and where God makes a difference. Therefore, when reading and studying the Scriptures, we’re to be on the lookout for “things that differ.”

*It is the glory of God to conceal a word [dâbâr]: but the glory of kings is to investigate a word [dâbâr] (Proverbs 25:2).*

**BSN**

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Right Division

**Minor:** I-95 and US 1



58 pages

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

### **Paul’s Priestly Ministry (A Compilation)**

Prior to the revelation of the present *Secret Administration* found in Ephesians and Colossians, Paul’s ministry was a *prophetic light* “to the Gentiles” (Acts 13:47) under the auspices of Israel (Isaiah 49:6), Paul himself “acting as a priest” (Romans 15:15-16, *CV*). During his earlier ministry, by his own admission, his teaching was limited to what “the prophets and Moses did say should come” (Acts 26:22), proclaiming “the hope of Israel” (Acts 28:20). This vital key is crucial to the proper understanding of the epistles which Paul wrote prior to Ephesians, letters which were “out of an installment” (I Corinthians 13:9-10, 12, *CV*).

This is a collection of eight important articles, by four authors: Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



# The Three Stages of Paul's Ministry

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

	Israel's Apostasy	Paul's Advancement
<p><b>PHASE 1</b>  <b>Acts 13:45-46</b>                      Rejection of the Spirit in the land of Israel</p>	<p><i>But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing you put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of eonian life, lo, we turn to the Nations</i></p>	<p><b>The Gospel of God:</b>  <i>Justification</i><sup>1</sup>                      (Absolute Grace)                      Paul takes <i>Justification</i> <b>BACK</b> to <b>Abraham</b> in uncircumcision (Acts 13:39; Galatians 2:16, 3:6-14; Romans 4:11-13).                      Paul termed this "my Gospel"</p>
<p><b>PHASE 2</b>  <b>Acts 18:4-6</b>                      Hostility of the Dispersion outside of the land of Israel</p>	<p>[Paul] <i>reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks. ... But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook his robe and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Nations."</i></p>	<p><b>The Secret of the Gospel:</b>  <i>The (Re)conciliation</i><sup>2</sup>                      (Absolute Peace)                      Paul takes <i>(Re)conciliation</i> <u>back</u> to <b>Adam</b> (Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 15:22, 45; II Corinthians 5:19-21).</p>
<p><b>PHASE 3</b>  <b>Acts 28:26-28</b>                      Final rejection and judicial decree at Rome</p>	<p><i>Go to these people and say: "You will listen and listen, yet never understand; and you will look and look, yet never perceive. For the hearts of these people have grown callous, their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted, and I would heal them. Therefore, let it be known to you that this saving work of God has been sent to the Nations; they will listen!"</i></p>	<p><b>The Secret Administration:</b><sup>3</sup>  <i>Joint-Allottees,</i>  <i>Joint-Body,</i>  <i>Joint-Partakers</i>  <i>Together with Christ among the Celestials</i>                      (Absolute Glory)                      Paul takes the Secret Administration <u>back</u> before the <b>Disruption of the World</b> – before sin's entrance (Ephesians 1:4).</p>

## HARDCOVER & SPIRAL BOUND BOOKS

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To help us better understand Paul's ministry during the Acts and post-Acts period, it is important to understand that it involved three distinct stages, all of which were facilitated by Israel's rejection of truth.

The three progressive stages of Israel's apostasy in the book of Acts (13:46; 18:6; 28:26-28) correspond to the three stages of progression and advancement in Paul's ministry: Justification, (Re)conciliation, and the Secret Administration.

The first two stages were a result of *progressive revelation* – truth hidden in the Hebrew Scriptures; while the last and final stage – the Administration of the Secret – was the revelation of an *absolute secret* “**hidden from the ages IN GOD**”<sup>4</sup> until it was made known in Ephesians and Colossians.

In 1909, Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921) wrote astutely concerning these three stages of Paul's ministry:

Paul's ministry passed, as it were, in three stages, each based on a special revelation – each successive revelation coinciding with a new turn of Israel's apostasy.

- (1) The rejection of the Spirit in the land brought forth the gospel of God – or Justification.
- (2) The hostility of the Dispersion disclosed the mystery of the gospel, or the secret news – the Reconciliation.
- (3) The last thing revealed is a Secret Economy of transcendent favor, where physical distinctions have no place.

As Israel declines, those Israelites and Gentiles who attended Paul's ministry were lifted higher and higher. They *began* in the grace of justification; they *proceeded* in the peace of reconciliation; they *attained* a culmination, acme, and climax in the zenith glory of heavenly realms.

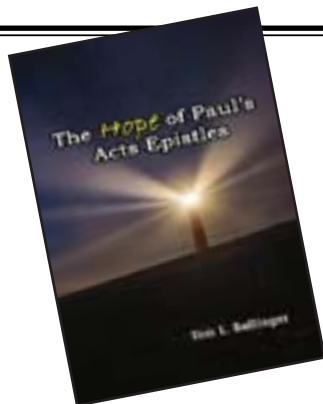
- ◆ *Justification* goes back to Abraham in uncircumcision.
- ◆ *Reconciliation* reverts [back] to Adam.
- ◆ *The Secret Economy* reaches [back] even beyond sin's entrance.

One after another the grim shadows of past ages are passed and left behind, and still their flight continues, onward and upward, to the source and cause of all: God Himself – and there undisturbed by physical distinctions, unafrighted by a law inflexible, justified, reconciled, seated with Christ, complete in Him, we are left in the presence of our Father in the unalloyed enjoyment of His love.<sup>5</sup>

#### Endnotes

1. Justification *is not mere* forgiveness, but rather, it means to be constituted or made righteous. “Forgiveness” is at the core of religious teaching and activity; and at the root of forgiveness is guilt. The followers of religion seek to obtain forgiveness through some means – concerted effort, confessions, prayers, penance, resolutions, etc. What Paul taught went well beyond that. The revelation given to him involved “justification” which, instead of being rooted in guilt, is rooted in “righteousness.”  
For further study about this grand theme of justification, see:  
– Book: [Ultimate Liberation: Beyond Forgiveness \(The Justification from and of Sin\)](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. Bible Student's Press;  
– Video: [Are You Forgiven or Justified?](#) by Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (40 minutes).
2. Reconciliation – the restoration to divine favor – is purely a divine work. It does not take place by any effort whatsoever on man's

(see *STAGES*, page 8103)



## *The Hope of Paul's Acts Epistles*

by — Tom L. Ballinger

A brief consideration of the believers' hope as recorded in the epistles of Paul written during the Acts-Period.

38 pages

See [order form](#) under “Ballinger.”



# Editor's Desk

# THE TOP 100 RECOMMENDED BOOKS

We're often asked to recommend books. Since we offer around 800 titles as resources for various aspects of study, on multiple themes, we decided to go through these books and narrow them down to a "Top 100." We consider these books to be the "cream of the crop" and not mere "aids" or "resources."

in the list. We trust that this list will prove helpful.

In the tie of peace,

Clyde

This list is provided alphabetically, and not in order of what we would consider as their importance with-

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Absolute Despotism of Grace, The (Compilation)                        | Divine Reconciliation of the Universe, The (Compilation)                      | New Administration at the Close of Acts, A (Loudy)                                      |
| Absolute Sovereignty of God, The (Compilation)                        | Doctrine of Substitution: An Erroneous Teaching (Compilation)                 | New Birth, The (Compilation)  |
| Acts Dispensation, The (Sellers)                                      | Due Benevolence (Pilkington)  | New Covenant, The (Compilation)   |
| Administration of the Secret, The (Compilation)                       | Ephesians & Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration (Pilkington) | No Equals (C.E.S.)  |
| Affliction, Trials and Suffering (Compilation)                        | Exposé of the "Two Natures" (Knoch)   | None Other Things (Welch)   |
| Ages, The (Compilation)   | Faith of Christ, The (Compilation)  | Nothing Will Be Lost! (Pilkington)  |
| All in All (Knoch)  | Fallacy of Post Mortem Punishment, The (Owens)                                | One God and One Lord (Compilation)  |
| An Analytical Study of Words (Abbot)                                  | Forgotten Truths Reaffirmed (Kessler)   | Our Calling in Christ (Bennett)   |
| Appendixes to the Companion Bible (Bullinger)                         | Foundations of Dispensational Truth (Bullinger)                               | Outcome of Infinite Grace, The (Hurley)   |
| Are Bride and Body Identical? (Robison)                               | Four Days of Scripture, The (Compilation)                                     | Out-Resurrection, The (Compilation)   |
| Being OK with Not Being OK (Pilkington)                               | God 101: Back to Basics (Pilkington)  | Parallel Literal New Testament (2 Volumes)  |
| Believer's Hope Today, The (Ballinger)                                | God's Holy Nation (Pilkington)  | Pastors – The Ascension Gifts, & the Higher Powers of Romans 13 (Pilkington)            |
| Body of Christ, The, or The Church Which Is His Body? (Compilation)   | "The God of All Comfort" (Smith, H.W.)  | Paul the Apostle: His Acts and Post-Acts Ministries (Compilation)                       |
| Church which is His Body and the Bride the Lamb's Wife, The (Kessler) | God's Purpose in the Heavens (Essex)  | Paul's Early Epistles (Robison)   |
| Concordant Commentary on the New Testament Knoch (Knoch)              | God's Revealed Purpose (Fry)  | Paul's Priestly Ministry (Compilation)  |
| Concordant Literal Version (Old & New Testaments)                     | Hope of Paul's Acts Epistles, The (Ballinger)                                 | Plērōma, The: Paul's "Lost" Teaching (Compilation)                                      |
| Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan, The (Compilation)                    | How Eternity Slipped In (Thomson)   | Prayer Dispensationally Considered (Compilation)  |
| Daily Goodies (Pilkington)  | How to Enjoy the Bible (Bullinger)  | Prehistoric Creatures: Chosen in Christ Before the Disruption of the World (Pilkington) |
| (More) Daily Goodies (Pilkington)                                     | I Am ... Who and What God Says (Pilkington)                                   | Present Truth Concerning Sign Gifts, The (Compilation)                                  |
| Death, the Intermediate State and the Resurrection (Compilation)      | In the Heavenlies: Studies in Ephesians (Hallman)                             | Present-Day Israel (Compilation)  |
| Dispensational Frontier of Acts 28 (Welch)                            | Judgement Seat of Christ: An Impossible Judgment (Bullinger)                  | Problem of Evil, The (Knoch)  |
| Dispensational Truth (Welch)  | Judgment and the Doctrine of Eternal Hell (Adams)                             | Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration (Compilation)                     |
| Disruption of the World, The (Compilation)                            | Lord's Supper, The (Compilation)  | Purposes of God, The / The True Nature of Redemption (Adams)                            |
| Divine Activation of Faith, and the Myth of Free Will (Pilkington)    | Man Christ Jesus, The (Compilation)   | Restitution of All Things, The (Jukes)  |
| Divine Lockup (Pilkington)  | Mars' Hill - A Study on Acts 17 (Pilkington)                                  | Rich Man & Lazarus, The (Compilation)   |
|   | Mystery Ministry of Paul, The (Schaefer)                                      | Salvation of All, The (Pilkington)  |

(see **BOOKS**, next page)



**STAGES** (continued from page 8101)

part. It was not God Who needed reconciliation to man, but man who needed reconciliation to God, and it was The Father “Himself” Who did the work through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an amazing revelation of truth committed to Paul, a revolutionary doctrine in contrast to record-keeping orthodoxy.

The enmity, division and estrangement of man toward God have been removed by the Father Himself. The far-reaching, triumphant work of Jesus Christ was not limited to those who currently believe. He was not partial in His work and accomplishments – He was all-inclusive. Christ did His wonderful work for the whole world. Therefore, this reconciliation is not man’s work in any sense. Man is not restoring himself to God; man is not coming to God, but God is coming to man, in Christ: “that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself” (II Corinthians 5:18).

For more on reconciliation, see:

– [The Divine Reconciliation of the Universe: \(A Comprehensive Compilation\)](#), Bible Student’s Press (see the [order form](#) under “Compilations”).

3. The present Secret Administration was “hid in God” (Ephesians 3:9), “hid from the ages and generations” (Colossians 1:25-26). It unveils “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:8) not found *elsewhere* in Scripture. It involves “The Dispensation of the Grace of God” (Ephesians 3:2), a despotism of grace, committed only to Paul, not associated with any covenant, new or old (Ephesians 2:14-15; Colossians 2:14), nor to human merit or rules (Colossians 2:8), ordinances, holy days, etc. (Colossians 2:16).

All things emphasized in the past under Israel’s administrations (Promise, Law and Pentecost) have been removed. We now live under an administration where the Barrier Wall has been removed (cf. Ephesians 2:14, CV), and in the absence of that wall we are “complete in Him” (Colossians 2:10). There is nothing that needs to be added.

Believers of this present Secret Administration are a “Joint-Body” (Ephesians 3:6), called the “One New Man” (:15), and share Christ’s Universal Headship inherent in the Heavens (4:15-16; Colossians 1:16-19; 2:10).

Because the current administration was an absolute secret, it is not the subject of prophecy. What this means is that Israel is currently in abeyance (Lo-*ammi* – “Not My People”), and her prophetic clock has now stopped, resulting in any timetable of prophecy being paused for the past two millennia.

Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians. For a consider-

ation of these post-Acts epistles of Paul, and their uniqueness in contrast with his earlier epistles, see the book:

- [Ephesians & Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press (see the [order form](#) under “Pilkington”).
- For detailed studies on the Secret Administration, see:
  - [The Administration of the Secret](#), Bible Student’s Press (see the [order form](#) under “Compilations”);
  - [“Pastors” – The Ascension Gifts, the Higher Powers of Romans 13, and the Secret Administration](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student’s Press, (see the [order form](#) under “Pilkington”);
  - [A New Administration at the Close of Acts](#), Adlai Loudy, Bible Student’s Press (see the [order form](#) under “Loudy”).

4. Ephesians 3:9:

“to enlighten all [as to] what [is] the **Administration of the Secret**, the one having been **hidden from the ages in God**” (ALV);

“to enlighten all as to what is the **Administration of the Secret**, which has been **concealed from the eons in God**” (CV);

“to enlighten all with the knowledge of what is the **Administration of the Mystery hidden throughout the ages in God**” (DAR);

“to enlighten all, what the **Administration of the Secret** of that having been **hidden from the ages in the God**” (ED);

“to shed light for all about the **Administration of the Mystery hidden for ages in God**” (HCSB);

“to bring to light—what is the **Administration of the Sacred Secret** which had been **hidden away from the ages in God**” (REB).

5. [Studies in the Book of Acts](#), Vladimir Gelesnoff, Bible Student’s Press (see the [order form](#) under “Gelesnoff”); short excerpt printed in *Bible Student’s Notebook* [717](#) (The Three Stages of Paul’s Ministry), expanded excerpt printed in *Bible Student’s Notebook* [509](#) (Onward and Upward: The Stages of Paul’s Ministry – Paul’s Priestly Ministry Transitioning Toward His Celestial); original printing, 1909 in *Unsearchable Riches* magazine, Volume 1, pages 338-343.

BSN

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Acts 28; Ephesians; Colossians; Justification; Mystery; Paul; Progressive Revelation; Reconciliation; Revelation; Right Division; Secret Administration

**Minor:** Acts Period; Grace; Love

**BOOKS** (continued from previous page)

Seven Administrations, The (Pilkington)  
 Silence of God, The (Anderson)  
 Sonship (Compilation)  
 Spirit Manifestations and Tongues (Anderson)  
 Steps I Have Taken, The (Pilkington)  
 Studies in the Book of Acts (Gelesnoff)  
 Suffering: God’s Forgotten Gift (Pilkington)  
 Supposed Lost Tribes of Israel, The (Compilation)  
 Things I Misunderstood (Pilkington)

Third Heaven: Our Celestial Destiny, The (Compilation)  
 Thoughts from the Heart of an Itinerant Wayfarer (Sneidar)  
 Three Spheres of Glory, The (Compilation)  
 Tracts of Joseph Kirk (Kirk)  
 Ultimate Liberation (Pilkington)  
 Undoing of Adam, The, and the Approach Present of God (Pilkington)  
 Uniqueness of Our Calling, The (Hallman)  
 Unpardonable Sin, The (Compilation)

Unveiled Glory/Unexpected Discovery (Hurnard/Smith)  
 Was Jesus Christ Alive Before His Life on Earth Began? (Welch)  
 Water Baptism (Compilation)  
 We Call Him “Father” (Pilkington)  
 Will We Escape Death? (Pilkington)  
 World Affairs & National Politics (Pilkington)

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Editors Desk; Books, Recommended  
**Minor:** Study



## New Videos Recorded in Birmingham, AL

Lessons from Mark Vogt & Clyde Pilkington

These videos are available on our YouTube channel, Biblical Resources

Complete Play List:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xuIaqusV0kL4qjKjvpPb5u3QOw->



Mark Vogt

The Sovereignty of God #1

*Without it God's Promises are Unsure*

The Sovereignty of God #2

*It's All or Nothing*

The Sovereignty of God #3

*The Suffering God*

The Sovereignty of God: #4

*The Danger of God **Not** being Associated With Evil*

The Sovereignty of God: #5

*Only God's Sovereignty Assures the Salvation of All*



Clyde Pilkington

Correctly Partitioning Prophetic Scriptures – *An Introductory Illustration*

Correctly Partitioning Prophetic Scriptures – *Prophetic Folders #1*

Correctly Partitioning Prophetic Scriptures – *Prophetic Folders #2*

Correctly Partitioning Paul's Epistles – *Introduction & Romans*

### Short Excerpts

(from the videos above)

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