Introduction:
A. Two important facts recognized in our text:
   1. There is an objective standard of Truth — “the word of truth”.
   2. There is right and wrong way to handle the word.
      a. “Rightly dividing”; “handling aright”; “correctly handles”
      b. More than merely dividing O.T. from N.T.
      c. “Divide” from word to cut straight, figuratively to expound correctly.
B. Three essentials to rightly dividing or handling aright he word of truth.

Discussion:
I. It Must be Rightly Understood. (cf. Neh. 8:8; Matt. 9:13).
   A. Study definitions.
      1. Ordinary meanings: cf. “repentance”, “lasciviousness” etc.
      2. Varying meanings: “perfect”, “striker”
      3. Unusual and/or archaic: “prevent”, “let”, “wit”, etc.
      4. Avoid being locked into one meaning of word for all contexts: Soul, Hell.
   B. Study usage.
      1. Literal and figurative.
      2. Contextually.
         b. General context. (“all truth” in Bible is spiritual truth, not secular truth)
         c. Historical, geographical and cultural context both of text and its translation: “Oil & wine”,
            “New cloth..new wine, old bottles”
II. It Must be Rightly Explained. (cf. Acts 17:3; 18:26)
      1. “Finished course” - What kind of course in Paul have in mind?
      2. “First love” - What did writer mean by expression?
   B. In light of time of the writing: “There is..one baptism” (Eph. 4:5) in A.D. 65
   C. In light of all the Bible says on subject: salvation, church, pastors, etc.
III. It Must be Rightly Applied. (cf. Acts 17:3; Heb. 5:13,14).
   A. Need to learn parallel and non-parallel situations. (“such like” - Gal. 5:21)
   B. Need to learn to determine essentials and incidentals. (Conversions in Acts).
   C. Need to learn to gather all information an reach necessary conclusions.

Conclusion:
A. We have word of truth - can understand it - must study it.
B. We need more than strip miners for truth, need deep students.
C. We need to correctly understand and apply the truth to themselves and hearers.