Words to Watch

Introduction:
A. Words are important.
   1. Our chief means of communication.
   2. God’s means of revealing Himself and His will to man (1 Cor. 2:12, 13).
B. Words need watching.
   1. Our words
   2. Our handling of God’s words (2 Tim. 2:14-15).
   3. Even Lord’s words can be misunderstood (John 21:22,23)
C. Words need to be understood.
   1. “Marvel [marble] not little children”
   2. “No striker”
D. Let’s look at some words that need a closer look than sometimes given:

Discussion:
I. “Perfect”
   A. Matt. 5:48 — “Be ye therefore perfect…”
   B. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17 — “….man of God may be perfect…”
   C. Matt. 19:21 — “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell…”
   D. Phil. 3:12, 15 — Used in two senses.
   E. Heb. 5:9 — “made perfect”
II. “All (things, men)”
   B. 2 Cor. 9:13 — Also limited.
III. “Not...but”
   A. Matt. 6:19-20 — Does forbid a savings account.
   B. John 6:27 — Does not forbid working for living.
   C. 1 Cor. 1:17 — Does not say Paul did no baptizing.
   D. 1 Pet. 3:3,4 — Does not forbid a woman’s “fixing up.”
IV. “Cannot”
   A. Acts 4:16, 20 — Does mean impossible, but cannot consistently.
   B. 1 Cor. 10:21 — Does not mean impossible to eat at both tables, but not consistently.
   C. 1 John. 3:9 — Does not mean impossible to sin, but not consistently.

Conclusion:
A. To understand God’s revelation, we need to understand words — meaning and usage.
B. Otherwise, the revelation is of little value to us.