

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a dark surface. The book is the central focus, with its pages slightly curved. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a desk or table. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the binding.

HANDLE IT

ACCURATELY

THAT SOUNDS SO SIMPLE

- Learning how to accurately handle the Bible can be quite a challenge, especially when you're first starting out. For whatever reason, many people come to conclusions that are wrong.
- As hard as it is to say, the fact that people can be wrong shouldn't surprise us. Jesus wasn't shocked (Mark 12:24, Matt. 22:29). Neither were the apostles (1 Tim. 6:20-21, 2 Pet. 2:1-3, Jude 11, 1 John 4:1-6). "False" is not an uncommon word in the New Testament (2 Cor. 11:26, Gal. 2:4, 2 Thess. 2:9-11).




WORDS MEAN SOMETHING

- “Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.”
- The scriptures are both permissive and limiting. When we speak, we must do so as the “utterances of God” (1 Pet. 4:11). We must actively, positively preach the word (2 Tim. 4:2). But that is balanced by the need to avoid “self-made religion” (Col. 2:23). Silence is not necessarily permissive. In fact, it can be outright restrictive at times (Acts 15:24, 1 Cor. 4:6, Heb. 7:11-14, 2 John 9).

WORDS MEAN SOMETHING

- Avoid phrases like “The Bible says...” Give scriptures, not ideas.
- Watch out for confusing terminology.
- Keep a written log of important verses. This can be organized in a journal, or as notes in the back of your Bible. Utilize an electronic device if that works best for you.
- Challenge others who are mishandling the Bible. “When did Jesus actually say that?” The Lord confronted error (Matt. 21:23ff, Matt. 22:15ff).



**SEE THE BIG
PICTURE**