Every time we read about death in the Bible, we must understand which death is being referred to.

We must also sort these deaths out in our own minds. Which death is the worst and to be avoided at all cost? Which death is the best and more to be desired? Which death is a gift Jesus gives, and which deaths are problems he solves?

You see how we must "sort out how things differ"? Otherwise we won't make the right choices and follow the best path. We will be confused about death and unable to deal with it.

Many wrong religious beliefs are wrong mainly because people are making distinctions between things which are one and the same, or treating as one and the same things which differ.

So let's be more skilled in wisdom for life and in understanding God's word by learning to "sort out the things which differ".

Let us not merely think or assume that we "know God's will and sort out the things which differ" (Rom 2:18) but let us really get hold of this skill and use it all the time both in our Bible study and in our life choices as we are guided by the Bible.

By this rule we can "Examine everything carefully, cling to what is good and abhor all forms of evil" (1Th 5:21-22).

In Philippians 1:10 Paul states one of the great skills we all need if we are to understand anything properly.

Paul says, "I pray that your love may grow and grow, based on proper knowledge and understanding, and that you'll sort out the things differ" (Php 1:9-10 cf Rom 2:18).

Without the skill to “sort out (or test) the things which differ”, we won't have a proper sense of values or a sensible view of the world. We won't be able to learn and make progress in life. We won't be able to build stable and loving relationships.

Worse, without this skill, we won't understand what we are told, not even what we are told by God.

So this is a very important skill that everyone needs to be good at.