

#3 THE TIME FACTOR

1. The Bible has proper _____, and you must understand these divisions properly in order to understand the message.

2 Timothy 2:15

This is a key verse. It tells us 5 key things:

- a. *What do we do with the Bible?* _____! (missing from modern versions)
- b. *Why?* _____ – NOT MAN!
- c. **HOW?** _____ – which indicates that you can _____ IT!

Divide means to _____ or to _____.

Paul was a tentmaker. He understood what “rightly dividing” meant. Ladies understand how important it is for a seamstress to “cut it straight” when it comes to the material used to make clothing.

Example: **GODISNOWHERE**

What does it say? An improper division can be catastrophic!

- d. *The posture we must maintain* - that of a _____ – it takes work
- e. *The result* - _____ – some people ought to be ashamed of themselves for what they do to God and His Word!

The Bible is divided in to differing “*dispensations*” concerning God’s dealing with mankind.

1 Cor 9:17 ...a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times...

Eph 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God...

Col. 1:25 ...according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you...

This is a biblical word that means: Economy; Stewardship; Administration; Household order.

It is more than merely a period of time, it is...

... a “time period” where God has a certain method of dispensing His truth...

- There was a time when God dispensed His truth through the _____.
- While Christ was on earth, God dispensed His truth through Him – the _____ Word!
- Now, God dispenses His truth through the _____ by **grace through faith in Christ alone!**

There are 7 dispensations throughout history (9 if you include Eternity Past and Eternity Future.)

1. _____ **IC** Approx 1 year; before the fall of Adam and Eve; how different things were then!
2. _____ **IC** Approx 1656 years; Adam and his lineage to time of the flood
3. _____ **IC** Approx 436 years; Noah and his sons and their lineage to the time of Abraham
4. _____ **IC** Approx 430 years; Abraham and his lineage to the time of Moses
5. **MOSAIC** Approx 1526 years; Moses thru the exodus; the time of the law until the _____ of Christ
6. _____ (Church Age) will last approx 2000 years; from the apostles to the _____ of the church
7. **MILLENNIAL** 1000 years; begins with Christ's return and lasts 1000 years to Great White Throne judgment

NOTE: In order to make these divisions, you have to know them first. This means that you have to obey 2 Timothy 2:15 and study!

The most obvious dispensational division – the _____ and _____ Testaments

KEY: Hebrews 9:11-17 ... Every Bible student must understand this most important division!

Example: Matthew 12:31-32

1. Context Factor – concerns _____'s leaders
2. People Factor – to the _____
3. Time Factor – _____ Testament times

Other important (*subtle*) _____: (*Turn to the contents page in your Bible*)

- a. The 3 basic applications to scripture:
 - In regard to books, passages, etc. – unseen or subtle divisions
 - In regard to breakdown of Old & New Testaments

History:	OT = Genesis to Esther; NT = Matthew to Acts
Devotional:	OT = Job to Song Solomon; NT = Romans to Philemon
Doctrinal:	OT = Isaiah to Malachi; NT = Hebrews to Revelation
- b. Books of Bible – every book is a “division” of sorts (not a dispensation)
- c. Chapters, verses, punctuation marks – these also mark “divisions” within the text

Major dispensational divisions can take place within the context of a few verses:

Isaiah 9:6-7 -

Luke 1:30-33 -

KEY: Most all false doctrine and heresy is simply _____ taken out of its proper place -

The Five rules to proper division

- 1) Do not take truth from one part of the past and read it into another part of the past – Gen 1:29 vs 9:3
- 2) Do not take truth from the past and read it into the present – that is what some did in Acts 15:1-11 (7th Day)
- 3) Do not take truth from the present and read it into the past – Rom 8:9 vs Num 11:29
- 4) Do not take truth from the future and read it into the present – Rev 14:1-4 (JW's)
- 5) Do not take truth from the future and read it into another part of the future – 1 Thes 4:13-18 vs 2 Thes 1:7-9