

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: 2 Timothy – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: 2 Timothy 2:15-18 – *you must learn to study and rightly divide the Bible!*

Today's Message:

"Rightly Divided"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we looked at a passage directed to a Christian with a *perceived* boundary. In suffering, we must look to Jesus Christ first, then beyond our boundaries to the eternal purpose for our suffering. Today, we come to one of the most important topics of the Christian life. All believers must **STUDY** the Bible; all believers must *learn* to study the Bible which includes learning how to rightly divide it. It is a heaven and hell issue! For most religious lies are a form of truth taken out of **CONTEXT**! Make it a goal to complete or review "How to Study the Bible" as soon as possible if you have not completed it yet!

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 2 Timothy 2:15-18

#1. The Command to Study – all Christians are *commanded* to **STUDY** the Bible.

(YOU) STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD

W1828 "Study"
Literally, a setting of the mind or thoughts upon a subject for the purpose of learning what is not before known.

- ✓ The word "study" has been removed from THIS VERSE in modern versions.
 - STUDY is found in 3 verses in KJV – *Ecc 12:12; 1Ths 4:11 (Pr 15:28; 24:2 "studieth")*
- ✓ It is possible to be **APPROVED** unto God or NOT APPROVED. *Gen 4:1-8 (Cain & Abel)*
 - Jesus Christ was *a man approved of God* – He did what the Bible says! *Acs 2:22*
 - A person who OBEYS the word of God is *acceptable to God*! *Rom 14:18; 2Ths 1:8*
 - You should strive to be *approved of God* and *accepted* of Him! *2Cor 5:9; 10:18; 1Ths 2:4*

A WORKMAN THAT NEEDETH NOT TO BE ASHAMED

- ✓ Studying the Bible requires hard **WORK** and diligence. *Heb 4:11; 2Pet 1:10; 3:14*
- ✓ It is possible to be ASHAMED – either by ignorance or laziness! *1John 2:28*
 - Consider these answers: "But, I did not KNOW." | "But, I did not HAVE TIME."

NOTE Of all the things you can choose to invest your life into, this one is ETERNAL!

#2. Rightly Dividing – all Christians must learn **HOW** to *rightly divide* the Bible.

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

- ✓ The Bible is of **NO** PRIVATE INTERPRETATION. *2Pet 1:20; Prov 30:5; Psalm 12:6-7*
 - The most important question we must ask is, "What does the Bible say?"

2023 VISION: *Hold the Fort!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

- ✓ The Bible has PROPER **DIVISIONS** that must be understood.
 - A simple, major division is the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT. **Heb 9:15-18**
 - The Bible has DIVISIONS called DISPENSATIONS. **1Cor 9:17; Eph 1:10; 3:2; Col 1:25**
 - Eden, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Church, Millennium
 - There was a time when God dispensed His truth through the LAW. **Gen-Deut**
 - While Christ was on earth, God dispensed His truth through HIM. **Heb 1:1-4**
 - Now, God dispenses truth through the BIBLE by grace through FAITH (Christ alone).
- ✓ The Bible has DIVISIONS based on the **PEOPLE** the word of God is written to.
 - When God deals with mankind, He sees **3** different, unique, divisions of people.
 - JEWS, GENTILES (*non-Jews*), and CHURCH of God. **Gen 12:3; Ps 122:6; Eph 2:14-18**
 - These THREE people groups are DIVIDED into **2** types – LOST and SAVED!
- ✓ When the PROPER DIVISIONS are violated, verses are taken out of **CONTEXT**.
 - The word of God has been WRESTLED and MANIPULATED since Genesis 3.
 - This has always been a problem. **Psalms 56:5; Jer 23:36; Mt 22:29; 2Pet 3:15-18**
 - Satan's primary attack is through RELIGION! **2Cor 11:3,4; 11:13-15; 1Tim 1:19-20**

NOTE There is no understanding of Bible without PROPER DIVISIONS and CONTEXT!

#3. Wrongly Dividing – ignorance of the word of truth leads to ERROR and HELL!

BUT SHUN PROFANE AND VAIN BABBLINGS

- ✓ Their word will eat as doth a **CANKER**: of whom is **Hymenaeus and Philetus**.
 - The Apostle Paul CALLED OUT people who opposed the word and work of Jesus Christ.

WHO CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED

- ✓ The IMPROPER DIVIDING of the Bible leads to very real and ETERNAL consequences!
 1. There is a difference between RELIGION and SALVATION. **Gen 4; Rom 10**
 2. The teaching that the CHURCH has **REPLACED** ISRAEL is SATANIC. **Rev 2:9; 3:9**
 3. The teaching that Jesus Christ is not God is ANTICHRIST and SATANIC. **1Jo 4:3**
 4. The teaching that the CHURCH must go THROUGH *the Tribulation* is SATANIC.
 5. The teaching that a born-again Christian can **LOSE** salvation is SATANIC.
 6. The teaching that a Church-Age Christian should speak in *tongues* is SATANIC.
 7. The teaching that God picks and **CHOOSES** people to go to hell is SATANIC.
 8. The Roman Catholic Church teaches **HERESY** and will be ANTICHRIST's religion.
 9. The RAPTURE of the CHURCH is not the same as the SECOND COMING!
 10. The KINGDOM OF GOD is not the same as the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!
 11. The JUDGMENT SEAT of Christ is not the same as the WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!

W1828 "Canker"

A disease incident to trees, which causes the bark to rot and fall.

A virulent, corroding ulcer; or any thing that corrodes, corrupts or destroys.

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