

Lesson 1: The Need

- *This series on 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth' is not designed to exhaust the issue; although, it will be concise it will be a thorough examination on the matter.*
 - *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth was designed by God to be a basic fundamental issue of study His word and benefiting from the profit and treasures in His word.*
 - *Therefore, 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth' is an issue for the believer. It is an issue to further understand after the 'glorious gospel of the blessed God' is properly understood and believed.*
 - *1 Tim. 2:4, "For God wills that all men be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth."*
 - *2 Tim. 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
 - *A failure to 'properly handle God's Word' will always produce the fruit of confusion. It is the primary phase of the Adversaries policy of evil formulated as part of his plan of evil to confuse the Christian through: experience, the world's course or fashion of this world, and primarily by having Christian's improperly handle God's Word.*
 - *As with anything, unless a "need" is seen and understood not much appreciation for what needs to be understood is had by an individual. If someone doesn't understand they are in a building that is on fire they won't appreciate the need to get out of the burning building; however, certain indicators and tell-tale signs are given to warn that person there's a fire and get out.*
 - *Well, there're tell-tale signs that something is wrong within Christendom today. There're indicators that warn us of a problem within the Body of Christ that have existed since the Body of Christ started to be formed with the Apostle Paul, whom warns us not to be one who is victimized and be a part of the problem. It is these indicators of need that I want to begin to examine to introduce this series on 'Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth'.*
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INDICATORS OF NEED

- Firstly, I want to acquaint us by generally examining a aspect of Paul's ministry. One of the features of Paul's ministry was to warn people of the danger they were in. (We are going to be jumping around to get a general feel of this need throughout Paul's epistles.)
 - WARNING
 - Col. 2:25-29: "warning" & "teaching" -- "that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus"
 - Why did Paul have to "warn" "every man"?

- DIVISION
 - Rom. 16:17-19; Eph. 4:14: division produces confusion

- CONFUSION
 - 1 Cor. 1:10, 6:1 (dare), 14:33: God isn't the author of confusion, the adversary is
 - If this is true then the confusion that exists in the Body of Christ is of the Adversary. It isn't supposed to exist, it is not of God, and the finger of blame is pointed either at the Adversary or us.
 - How does Satan produce division and cause confusion?

- ROOT ISSUE
 - Rom. 16:17-19; Eph. 4:14; 2 Cor. 11:1-4, 12-15; Gal. 4:1-8: The root issue is not handling God's Word properly and Satan utilizes men to do this.
 - 2 Tim. 2:24-26: UB & B - End up dishonoring God and honoring Satan
 - ◆ Christians can "oppose themselves"
 - ◆ Christians can be in "the snare of the devil"
 - ◆ Christians can be a POW and taken captive (a fight & war)
 - ◆ Christians can do his "will"

- It is often thought within Christendom that because I received the Holy Spirit I can handle the Word of God in any manner.

- I can take this verse out of context, this verse out of context, this verse out of context, string them together, form a conclusion and say this is true, because I got it from the Bible and I have the Holy Spirit; as if the Holy Spirit is the justification of mishandling the Bible.

- In other words, many Christians think they can handle the Bible any way they want; however, this is the very thing that leads to division in the Body of Christ, which causes confusion and the very thing Paul sternly and strictly denounces.
 - 2 Cor. 4:1-4: spiritual blindness to God's plan and purpose today by contrary doctrines

- BIBLICAL CONTRARY DOCTRINES
 - 2 places of influences to produce spiritual blindness
 1. World (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:17-21)
 2. Contrary Doctrine (Rom. 16:17-19; Eph. 4:14)

 - What is "contrary doctrine"?
 - This is given in Romans 16 and the doctrine they have just learned is Romans doctrine therefore doctrine that contradicts Romans doctrine is contrary doctrine.

 - Paul is not talking about Bible scoffers who manufacture objections and accusations against the Bible. Paul is being more specific than that.

- Paul is talking about Bible handlers today, as we have seen they can be Christians, that teach doctrines today that have nothing to do with us today in this dispensation of grace.

LET'S SEE THIS (WE NEED TO SEE THIS)

- Have you ever read the Bible and thought you found a contradiction in it? You read something in one place and read something somewhere else that teaches the exact opposite some place else?
- There are what I call "apparent" contradictions and it is not handling these "apparent" contradictions properly that leads to the mass divisions and the mass confusion today.
 - 2 Tim. 2:15-18
 - Two men confuse the resurrection (rapture): Not Bible scoffers, it isn't like they didn't believe in the resurrection like the Sadducee's, they did; however, they erred (improperly handled the resurrection issue) concerning the "timing" of a resurrection.
 - 2 Cor. 15:50ff : rapture and resurrection in connection with it
 - So these guys weren't Bible scoffers, they were B, Christians that erred, but "their word" "eat as doth a canker", it spread like cancer and infected a large portion of the Body of Christ. Their erroneous teaching was produced by improperly handling God's Word concerning the resurrection and the effects were devastating and Paul wanted Timothy to "shun profane and vain babblings" because it "will increase unto more ungodliness". Their teaching ended up causing division and discord regarding the "timing" of the resurrection.
 - We will talk more about this issue later.
 - APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS
 - Example: If I told you today we should build an ark in order to follow God, would I be right in telling you that or not? NO! Why? I am being Biblical I could go back to Genesis 6:14 and say well Noah was a person of God, we are the people of God; "Make God an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch....etc". God gave a command to do that and we are to follow the commandments of God and if you didn't you would be disobeying God. I could be totally Biblical and Scriptural in saying that, but why would I be wrong?
 - Context, not what God is doing today (what determines what God is doing today or not), His Word

Issue	IP	PE
Dietary Commands	Lev. 11:1-8	1 Tim. 4:1-5
Miraculous	Matt. 6:25, 31-33, 10:9-15; Acts 4:32-35	1 The. 4:11-12; 2

Provision		The. 3:7-12
Baptism	Matt. 3:11-12; Jn. 1:33	1 Cor. 1:17
Circumcision	Gen. 17:9-14; Jn. 7:21-23	Gal. 5:1-3, 6
Sabbath Day(s)	Lev. 23:1 (Holy Days - Feasts) v. 3 sabbath v. 10-11 firstfruits v. 15-16 pentecost v. 24 trumpets v. 26 atonement v. 37 tabernacles	Gal. 4:1-7; Col. 2:16-17
Laws Function	Moses; Matt. 23:1-4; Gal. 4; Jn. 7:21-23	Rom. 6:14; Eph. 2; Col. 2; 1 Tim. 1
2nd Coming	<u>After trib.</u> - Matt. 24; Jas. 5:8; Ps. 68; Zech. 14:1-5; Isa. 3:11; Isa. 31:4-5, 42:13-15, 66:15-16 (Rev. 6:2, 19:11) <u>Saints go thru it</u> - Matt. 24 <u>Return to Mt. of Olives</u> - Zech. 14:1-5; Matt. 24:3; Acts 1	1 The. 4:13-5:11;