

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Introduction:

1. As we study and teach the Scriptures we are responsible for "*rightly dividing* [accurately handling] *the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. We are examining several principles that will help us to fulfill this responsibility.
3. The theme for our first lesson: To know the truth on a Bible subject we must carefully consider all that the Bible teaches concerning that subject.
4. The theme for this lesson: God does not approve of an activity just because it seems right to us.

Discussion:

- I. THIS PRINCIPLE IS ADDRESSED IN PROVERBS 14:12; 16:25
 - A. Additional verses in Proverbs show how:
 1. man must not trust in his own understanding (3:5, 7)
 2. man has a tendency to justify his actions (16:2; 21:2)
 3. trusting in one's own heart is a foolish practice (28:26).
 - B. Jeremiah further showed how man is not capable of directing his own way (Jeremiah 10:23).
- II. THIS PRINCIPLE IS ILLUSTRATED MANY TIMES IN THE BIBLE
 - A. Illustration #1: The occasion when Nadab and Abihu burned incense.
 1. (Leviticus 9:24) When Aaron and his sons were dedicated as priests, God responded to the offering that was made.
 2. (Leviticus 10:1) Nadab and Abihu "*offered strange fire before the Lord.*"
 3. (Leviticus 10:2) They lost their lives because they did what seemed right to them.
 - B. Illustration #2: The occasion when Saul offered a burnt offering.
 1. (1 Samuel 10:8) When Samuel anointed Saul as king, he instructed Saul to go to Gilgal to wait 7 days for him.
 2. (1 Samuel 13:4-9) At Gilgal, when Saul saw that his army was deserting, he offered the burnt offering himself.
 3. (1 Samuel 13:10-14) Samuel informed Saul that he would lose his kingdom because he chose to do what seemed right to him.
 - C. Illustration #3: The occasion when Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant.
 1. (Numbers 4:15) When Moses revealed the duties of the sons of Kohath, they were forbidden to touch "*any holy thing.*"
 2. (1 Chronicles 13) Uzzah lost his life because he chose to do what seemed right to him.

Conclusion:

Rather than do what may seem right to us, let us follow God's instructions as He gave them.