

## 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 Scriptures teach that we must:
  - a. consider all that the Bible teaches on a subject to know the truth (Psalm 119:160)
  - b. not participate in activities just because they seem right to us (Proverbs 14:12)
  - c. avoid human traditions and commandments (Titus 1:13-14).
4. The theme for this lesson: Questions designed to contradict the truth must be avoided.

### Discussion:

- I. THIS PRINCIPLE IS ADDRESSED IN THE LETTERS TO TIMOTHY AND TITUS
  - A. 1 Timothy 6:3-4, 20-21
  - B. 2 Timothy 2:23
  - C. Titus 3:9
- II. THIS PRINCIPLE IS ILLUSTRATED IN MARK 12:18-27
  - A. (vs.18) On this occasion the Sadducees approached Jesus.
    1. Basically, the Sadducees were wealthy Jewish political leaders.
      - a. (Acts 4:1) They are mentioned with the priests and the captain of the temple.
      - b. (Acts 5:17) They are mentioned with the high priest.
    2. The Sadducees had some peculiar doctrines.
      - a. They claimed to follow the 5 books written by Moses.
      - b. However, they said: "*there is no resurrection.*"
      - c. (Acts 23:8) They also denied the existence of angels and spirits.
      - d. They believed that all life ends with the grave.
      - e. Perhaps this will help us to understand why Jesus told His disciples to beware of the "*leaven*" [doctrine] of these people (Matthew 16:6, 12).
  - B. (vs.19-22) The Sadducees presented a hypothetical situation to Jesus that involved the law given in Deuteronomy 25:5-6.
  - C. (vs.23) The Sadducees asked Jesus whose wife this woman would be in the resurrection.
  - D. (vs.24-27) Jesus answered this question.
    1. Jesus told these people they were wrong in that they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God.
    2. (vs.26) Jesus quoted a statement from Exodus 3:6 to show that there is life after death.
      - a. God was speaking to Moses from the burning bush.
      - b. God identified Himself by saying: "*I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.*"
      - c. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been dead for years, but when God said, "*I am,*" He implied that they were somehow still alive.
    3. (vs.27) Jesus concluded by saying: "*He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living.*"
  - E. Although the Sadducees asked a foolish question designed to support their belief, . . .
- III. THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RESURRECTION
  - A. The Scriptures declare that the dead will live again (John 5:21, 25).
  - B. The Scriptures declare that the resurrection will occur "*at the last day*" (John 6:39-40, 44, 54).
  - C. The Scriptures supply additional details that relate to the resurrection.
    1. The resurrection will include "*the just and the unjust*" (Acts 24:14-15).
    2. The resurrected body will be a spiritual body that pleases God.
      - a. 1 Corinthians 15:35, 38, 42-44
      - b. Philippians 3:20-21
    3. Anticipating the resurrection should affect our service to the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).