

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)
 - d. avoid questions that contradict the truth (Titus 3:9).
4. The theme for this lesson: The New Testament has replaced the Old Testament.

Discussion:

- I. THIS PRINCIPLE IS ADDRESSED IN A NUMBER OF PASSAGES
 - A. The Old Testament is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16), and it was written for our benefit (Romans 15:4); however, . . .
 - B. The Old Testament stated that it would be replaced (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
 1. The new covenant would be greater than the old one.
 2. The new covenant would provide the complete removal of sins.
 - C. The Bible explains why the establishment of the new covenant was necessary.
 1. (Hebrews 9:1-10) The service performed under the first covenant "*could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience.*"
 2. (Hebrews 10:1-4) The animal sacrifices that were offered under the old covenant could not take away sins.
 - D. The covenant of Christ fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy (Hebrews 8:6-13; 10:15-17).
 - E. Additional passages teach that the old covenant is no longer in effect (Romans 7:4; Galatians 3:23-28; Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:13-14).
- II. THE NEED TO STUDY THIS PRINCIPLE IS ALSO ADDRESSED IN A NUMBER OF PASSAGES
 - A. Some teachers in the early church taught Christians to keep the Law of Moses (Acts 15:1-5).
 - B. This problem also affected the churches in Galatia (Galatians 4:21; 5:1-3) and the church in Colosse (Colossians 2:16-17).

Conclusion:

1. Because the New Testament is in effect today, we must not seek to be justified by the law (Galatians 5:4).
2. Rather, let us follow the instructions given in James 1:25.