

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)
 - e. follow the teachings of the New Testament because it has replaced the Old Testament (Hebrews 8:6-13).
4. The theme for this lesson: To rightly divide the word of truth we must continue in the doctrine of Christ.
5. This simply means that we must abide in the Lord's teaching.

Discussion:

- I. THIS PRINCIPLE [CONTINUING IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST] IS ADDRESSED IN A NUMBER OF PASSAGES
 - A. We are to:
 1. continue in the Lord's doctrine to be His disciples (John 8:31)
 2. allow the Lord's Word to dwell in us (Colossians 3:16)
 3. look into the Lord's Word and practice its teachings (James 1:25).
 - B. In order to continue in the Lord's teaching we must properly identify it.
 1. According to John 12:49-50, the Lord's teaching is the Word of God -- Jesus delivered the message that the Father gave to Him.
 2. To be more specific, the New Testament is the Lord's Word (Hebrews 9:15).
 3. The entire New Testament is the Lord's Word, including the Gospels and the Epistles.
 - a. Much of the Lord's actual teaching is recorded in the Gospels; however, the Lord's Word is not limited to the Gospels.
 - b. (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus told the apostles to teach the things He had taught them.
 - c. (John 15:15) Jesus revealed to the apostles everything He had heard from the Father.
 - d. (John 14:26; 16:13) Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help the apostles as they taught His Word.
 - e. (Ephesians 3:3-5) The Spirit also guided the apostles and prophets as they wrote the Lord's Word.
 - f. (1 Corinthians 14:37) The writings of the apostles are "*the commandments of the Lord.*"
- II. THE NEED TO APPLY THIS PRINCIPLE [CONTINUING IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST] IS ALSO ADDRESSED IN A NUMBER OF PASSAGES
 - A. Those who fail to continue in the doctrine of Christ will face serious consequences, including:
 1. being judged by the Lord's Word (John 12:48)
 2. having no fellowship with God (2 John 9-11).
 - B. Those who continue in the doctrine of Christ will enjoy special blessings, including:
 1. knowing the truth that makes one free (John 8:32)
 2. having fellowship with God and Christ (John 14:23)
 3. having prayers answered (John 15:7).