

Rightly Divide the Word of God

In past Artios Letters, you've seen me make mention of rightly dividing God's word. Let's spend some time on that topic now so that you can understand what it means to rightly divide the word of God. The following verse should be familiar by now.

(2 Tim 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

This is the only place in the bible that the words 'rightly dividing' occur. These two words are very unique and the meaning is almost unbelievable. One Greek word ORTHOTO-MOUNTA translates these two English words, "rightly dividing." ORTHO means, "right or straight." TO-MOUNTA means, "to cut." The combined meaning is "there are no other ways to cut the word." This is



very important. Have you ever watched a pie being cut? Well, if you have, you probably wanted each piece to be the same size, or at least wanted to be given the largest piece. With a pie, there's only one way to properly cut it; make sure each piece is the same size. Otherwise, someone's going to be mad. The word of God is the same. There's only one way to cut it. Nothing else will do. Every sect, division of religion, originates from a wrongly dividing of God's word. I'd like to show you some areas in which God wants us knowledgeable.

(1 Cor 12:1 KJV) Now

concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

God expects us to know the score. The word *gifts* is in italics. This means that the word has been added by the translators; there is no corresponding Greek word in the text. God doesn't want us to be ignorant of spiritual matters.

(1 Th 4:13 KJV) But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

God expects us to know the score about death and the return of Jesus Christ. We do not study to show ourselves approved to any man or denomination. We study to show ourselves approved unto only God. Man's approval is always secondary.

(Acts 2:22 KJV) Ye

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men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

Jesus was approved by God. Jesus was not approved in his community, he was approved of God. Why? Because he did what the word of God said he should and could do. Jesus was held accountable for his workmanship, and so are we.

(Rom 14:12 KJV) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

We will be held accountable. You give account of yourself only to God. We must study his word the right way, a true cutting of it. If we are going to have God's approval, we are going to have to study and divide it the right way.

Do you think Jesus rightly divided the word? I Do.

(Luke 24:44 KJV) And he said unto them, These are the words

which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

This is how Jesus divided the Old Testament. He divided the Old Testament into the Law, Prophets and the Writings [Psalms]. Theologians divide the Old Testament into Law, history, poetry, minor prophets, and major prophets. Who's right, Jesus or man? We are to study God's word and rightly divide it.

The word of God is truth; rightly divided we have the true word.

To the extent that we rightly divide the subject of salvation, we have the truth of salvation. I may wrongly divide the holy spirit field. This is why in any one person the possibility for truth and error exists. Naturally, I'll be sincere, but that is no guarantee for truth.

Sincerity is no guarantee for truth

A person may look sincere, but that doesn't help me. A one bristle tooth brush won't get you very far. In the religious field, when a sincere person comes along, I take notice. When these holy, goodie goodie like-people come along, I listen to what God has to tell me. Sincerity is no guarantee for truth. Sincerity is wonderful, but we must rightly divide the word. There is only one way to stand approved before God. Not by placing the flowers in the right place on the altar. It makes man a difference, but not God. To the end we wrongly divide the word, we don't stand approved. Maybe you'll stand approved in your church, but you won't stand approved before God.

You can never bring Christian believers together on these extraneous things, rather, only on the word of God. One brand says you can't smoke, and the same brand in a different part of the country or world says you can. All this does is fracture the body of Christ. One church split over whether Adam had a

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navel. There was a different church on each corner, and one was called "the first church of the Navelites."

Truth or Error

We have the true word to the extent and to the portion that we rightly divide the word.

We will have error to the extent and to the portion that we wrongly divide the word.

(Mat 5:18 KJV) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Not one jot or tittle will go unfulfilled, because God watches over His word.

We want everyone to have this word. The critics may laugh, and the unbeliever may ridicule, but Jesus Christ is still coming back. God's word has stood the test of all time. Men come and go, but God's word still abides. We are speaking about the written word. Christ is the word in the flesh, and

is made known by the written word.

When the written word is preached, Jesus Christ is made known.

(Acts 17:2-4 KJV) And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, {3} Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. {4} And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Note verse three. God made known the written word and the written word made known Christ. Our responsibility is to believe the word. This word is not an aid to devotion. It is the word of Life. Receive it with meekness, retain it with conviction, and release it with boldness. This is not an aid to devotion. This is Life!

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown