

# REASONS TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE

## WHY IT MATTERS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF GETTING IT WRONG

*"I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, ... that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine"*

~ 1 Timothy 1:3

### 1. Rightly Dividing Matters

- a. When the Bible is seen as single dish served only for you – it is consumed recklessly.
- b. Instead, it has different contexts, operations, and instructions which must be discerned.
- c. *So? What's the big deal? What's the harm? Why does it matter? Why should we care?*
- d. *Most churches do not rightly divide. They still operate. Christians still exist.*
- e. What are the consequences of failing to rightly divide?

### 2. Teach No Other Doctrine

- a. How do you know your doctrine is right? Isn't more teaching always better than less?
- b. *"Charge some that they teach no other doctrine"*- 1 Tim 1:3
- c. Some doctrines should not be taught. Some instructions in the Bible are not yours.
- d. Consequence: more questions and confusion than godly edifying - 1 Tim 1:4

### 3. When Teaching the Law is Bad

- a. Charity requires purity, goodness, real faith, truth (right division) - 1Tim 1:5, 1Cor 13:6
- b. Is teaching the law not a vain thing or is it vain jangling - Deu 32:46-47, 1 Tim 1:6
- c. The law condemns and makes faith void - Rom 4:14-15
- d. Satan's ministers are transformed as the ministers of righteousness - 2 Cor 11:15
- e. Consequence: Operating under weak, vain, yoke of bondage - Gal 4:9-11,21, 5:1

### 4. The Right Pattern for Life

- a. If Paul is the pattern unto life? What of those not following his pattern? 1 Tim 1:15-16
- b. If he does not "war a good warfare" and "hold faith", then disaster - 1 Tim 1:18-19
- c. Speaking the wrong words about or as from God is blasphemy - 1 Tim 1:20
- d. Consequence: A crisis of faith, gospel ignorance, "preaching Jesus" wrongly.

### 5. Overthrowing Faith

- a. The word of truth must be used to divide rightly, or it can harm - Heb 4:12
- b. What happens if the sword is not sharp, shield has holes, helmet falls off - Eph 6:11-17
- c. The admonitions to rightly divide given to Timothy who is teaching others - 2 Tim 2:15
- d. A failure to rightly divide can subvert the hearers (v14 increase more ungodliness (v16)
- e. Words like a canker corrodes and corrupts (v17), wrong teaching overthrows faith (v18)
- f. Wrong words need cut out with a knife rightly wielded – we need to rightly divide.
- g. Consequence: True faith is destroyed (subverted/overthrown/corrupted)

### 6. Deceived Hearts

- a. Faith is always replaced with something else (reason, experience, works, another Jesus)
- b. A message/faith/Jesus is still taught (but is perverted) - 2 Cor 11:4, Gal 1:6-8

- c. Wrong divisions offend right doctrine. They are to be avoided - Rom 16:17
- d. These divisions are not caused by listeners but teachers - Rom 16:18
- e. Glorifying in shame looks like glorying in what you see, now, here, felt - Phi 3:17-21
- f. Hearts are deceived by "good words" "fair speeches" "belly" "own lusts" 2 Tim 4:3-4
- g. To avoid deception: mark, avoid, reprove, rebuke, exhort, instruct, longsuffer v2
- h. Consequence: Listeners love to follow what feels good, comfortable, convenient
  
- i. These consequences cannot be prevented, but they can be reversed.
- j. That work begins with faithful men who study to shew approved unto God (not men) ... rightly dividing the word of truth.