

REASONS TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE - PART II

WHY IT MATTERS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*"[God] will have all men to be saved,
and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*

~ 1 Timothy 2:4

1. Rightly Dividing Matters

- a. The Bible has different contexts, revelations, and instructions which must be discerned.
- b. *Most churches do not rightly divide. They still operate. Christians still exist.*
- c. *So, what's the big deal? Why does "rightly dividing" matter? Why is it important?*
- d. Existing and functioning does not describe how well. "Alive" does not mean well.
- e. "It is well" (1873) describes a strong spiritual condition. Souls are not well, today.
- f. Pt 1 Consequences: a church confused, under law, gospel hid, faith destroyed, deceived
- g. Pt 2 Your spiritual condition depends on rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. Salvation is the Beginning

- a. Salvation is not the end of our mission; it is the beginning of our life.
- b. The dangerous evangelical method is "agree on salvation – disagree on doctrine"
- c. There are stages to growth – salvation, establishment, sanctification, service (1 Th 4:3)
- d. "Discipleship problem" is spiritual immaturity, stunted growth, doctrinal malnourishment
- e. There are two things in this verse, both equally important - 1 Tim 2:4
- f. Without the knowledge of truth, church is filled with error (spiritual poison) 1 Tim 3:15
- g. The instruction to "rightly divide the word of truth" protects truth from error - 2Ti 2:15

3. How Christians Grow

- a. Salvation is by grace, growth comes after (i.e. godly edifying) 1 Tim 1:4-5
- b. Growing up into Christ comes from speaking, walking, learning the truth - Eph 4:16, 20
- c. *"Ye have not so learned Christ"* - How have you learned him? Rom 16:25, 2 Cor 5:16
- d. God gives the increase, but we must take heed how we build - 1 Cor 3:6-10
- e. Growth not measured in numbers, but in the inner man after salvation.
- f. Rightly dividing the Bible is the meal prep, exercise routine, blueprint for growth.

4. Understanding is Strength

- a. The zeal, excitement, clarity that comes from rightly dividing describes understanding.
- b. Understanding brings you into the life of God - Eph 4:18
- c. Understanding of God's will brings wisdom for your walk - Eph 5:15-18
- d. Spiritual understanding brings a worthy walk, increase, strength to Christians Col 1:9-11
- e. The assured and blessed Christian life comes from understanding - Col 2:2-3
- f. Rightly dividing the word of truth gives you a path to understanding - 2 Tim 2:7

5. Does It Work in You

- a. The path to understanding the Bible has been lost, neglected, overgrown, bypassed.
- b. The word of God can work in you - 1 Thess 1:5, 2:11-13, 2 Cor 10:4-5
- c. Saints thirst for this working in their inner man - Eph 3:16-19
- d. People substitute this with majority opinion, emotions, friendship, success, desires.
- e. The word cannot work in you if the word of truth is not rightly divided - Gal 5:2-4

6. Spiritual Walk

- a. The idea of walking after God in me, unseen, by faith, without laws is Pauline.
- b. How God wants us to live by the Spirit is communicated in Paul's epistles alone.
- c. Walking after the Spirit comes from knowing the Spirit's leading - Gal 5:18
- d. We are vessels of God's truth – failure to rightly divide leaves us unprepared -2Ti 2:21
- e. Churches made their mission to communicate the teachings of the OT and MMLJ – not knowing nor communicating the Spirit walk which must be rightly divided.
- f. Who the Spirit leads are sons (saved, complete, grown) - Rom 8:14
- g. To grow in understanding, strength, worthy walk we must rightly divide the word.