

REASONS TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE - PART III

WHY IT MATTERS TO KNOW WHAT GOD IS DOING

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

~ Ephesians 5:17

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. #1 Consequences: a church confused, under law, gospel hid, faith destroyed, deceived
- e. #2 Spiritual growth: spiritual understanding, knowledge of truth, strength, your walk
- f. #3 Purpose and will of God: what God is doing, and what you do for God matters
- g. Without rightly dividing the word of truth, confusion abounds about what God is doing.
- h. What God is doing, when, & why is central to dispensational right division - Eph 3:10-11

2. Who Cares – God's Will Not Yours

- a. Many don't care for right division, b/c they don't care what God is doing - Job 21:14
- b. The Bible calls this selfish, wicked, foolish (they reap what they sow) - Ps 28:4-5, 92:5-6

3. Who Knows – Ignorance of God's Will

- a. Christians openly confess this ignorance as a "wise" position, despite Eph 5:17
- b. There were men in the Bible who did not know - Ps 130:3, Job 9:2, Jonah 3:9, Isa 64:4
- c. Believers do not know the will of God, though it is now revealed - 1 Cor 2:10, Eph 1:9

4. Who's Right - God's Changing Instructions

- a. Why so many denominations? Why so many interpretations? A: wrong division.
- b. The contemporary response: "they don't matter" "doctrine divides" "just follow Jesus"
- c. Who sits in judgment over nations? Isa 2:4 v Joel 3:10; Baptism? Mk 16:16 v 1Co 1:17
- d. How does God want us to live? According to Hebrew epistles or Paul's epistles?

5. Who Did That - Divine Intervention

- a. A direct consequence to not knowing what God is doing – is it God or Satan's doing?
- b. When good/bad circumstances occur was it God? Christians don't know - Rom 8:28
- c. In desperation people turn to spiritism, mysticism, emotionalism, opportunism (idolatry)
- d. How do you know God did that? "I just know" "I can feel it" "It's what I wanted"
- e. You don't know what God is doing without rightly dividing (for shame)

6. Who is Israel – God's People

- a. Most of the Bible speaks about this nation God began through promises.
- b. They fell: when, why (Rom 11:11); Were they fulfilled? how? Heb 2:8, 13:14, 2Pet 3:9
- c. What is God building? Nation, kingdom, or a Body - 2Co 5:17, are we Israel? 2Co 11:22
- d. "Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" past, present, future - Acts 1:6-7
- e. Is God ruling over the world today or not God? Gal 1:4, 2 Cor 4:4
- f. You won't know who you are and what you should be doing without rightly dividing.

7. What to Expect – Our Hope

- a. What will God do? Can we expect him to work? What is he doing in the world?
- b. Ignorance of God's purpose forces sincere believers into not knowing what to expect.
- c. What we expect God to do for good is the definition of Christian hope – Rom 8:18
- d. The blessed hope is what we are told to look for - Titus 2:13, but it is not – Eph 1:18
- e. If you do not understand, your faith is wrong, if faith is wrong then hope is false.
- f. Rightly dividing is not merely academic, it is the tool for knowing and doing God's will.
- g. If you don't walk, work, look for God's work, engage the world, then it does not matter.
- h. If the church is to be unashamed workmen, we need to rightly divide the word of truth.