

Biblical Perspectives from God's Word

Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth

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I. Introductory Remarks.

In this series of lessons we are talking about "The Bible and its role in the New Testament Church." A major part of my passion is instilling or imparting to you a real respect and love for God's Word. This lesson will deal with how we as ministers of the New Covenant have a responsibility before God to rightly handle His Word of Truth. This is something we have been entrusted with and given stewardship over. It is an awesome responsibility.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. {2}Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*

2 Timothy 2:15 Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Teachers of God's Word shall incur **stricter judgment**.

James 3:1 *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*

- The church of Jesus Christ is the **pillar** and **ground** of all truth.

If teachers of God's word begin to distill the truth and water it down by whatever means it will have a direct affect upon the world around us because the Church is the pillar and ground of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

II. Areas In Which We Are To Handle The Word of God.

1. We Begin By **Ordering** Our Lives According To God's Word.

1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; {2}But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's*

conscience in the sight of God.

If you have major areas in your life that out of order according to God's Word it will affect your teaching and preaching. If deception can occur in your life than it will spread into other areas.

1 Timothy 4:12-13 *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. {13}Till I come, give attention to **reading**, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

2. Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth in **Teaching & Preaching**.

As preachers and teachers we have a **responsibility** before God and the people we serve not to twist and pervert scriptures to fit our own unique perspectives. We must learn to interpret Scripture from God's Perspective. Anyone can wrest or twist the Scriptures to make them say whatever they want. Our goal should be to put our own preconceived ideas aside and truly look at it from God's perspective.

2 Peter 3:16 *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

There are some simple safeguards that will enable you to be a person to rightly divide the word of truth.

- **Make sure your **motivation** is right before God.**
- **Do not take Scriptures out of context – No Scripture is of **private interpretation**.**

2 Peter 1:20 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

- **Study your subject **thoroughly** and **carefully**.**

Don't rely on what others teach and say. You are responsible to rightly divide the word of truth for yourself and those who will hear you.

What happens if you come up with something different than what you have been taught by those who are in authority over you? Submit it to them and allow it to be tested and proved. Don't just start teaching some new revelation without first

submitting it.

Acts 17:11 *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

- **Experiences are not to be esteemed over the Word.**

The word of God is the **final authority** for all matter of life and doctrine.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

1 Corinthians 4:6 *And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us **not to think of men above that which is written**, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.*

3. The Word Must **Permeate** all That is Preached and Taught.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

A good message will always have lots of **Scripture** to back up what you are saying. It's the word of God that impacts people's lives, not our fancy words or eloquent speech.

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any **two-edged** sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Even though people may want to hear ear tickling doctrines, as a minister of God you have a responsibility to teach them to endure sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:2-4 *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. {3}For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4}and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

- **Preachers and Teachers have a responsibility to preach and teach the **whole counsel** of God, not just a particular area of expertise.**

Acts 20:26-28 *"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood*

of all men. {27}"For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel** of God. {28}"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

4. The Word of God Must Also be Included in All **Areas** of **Ministry**.

All that we do as ministers of God is based upon the Word of God. Our counselling, vision and purpose, ministries etc. must be word based.

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any **two-edged** sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Again, it is the word of God that changes people's lives, not your well thought out philosophies or psychology.

III. Concluding Remarks.

- The foundation of God's Word keeps us **secure** in God in the midst of a world that is in the midst of great turbulence.

Psalms 11:3 *If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?*

- There is a great **reward** for those who remain faithful to God's Word.

Revelation 3:8-12 *"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. {9}"Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie; indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. {10}"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. {11}"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. {12}"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*