

Rightly Dividing the Word

"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth."

– 2 Timothy 2:15 (AMPC)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

"Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God." – 2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT)

Although all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, we can't just open our Bibles and try to apply just any Scripture to ourselves. The following things need to be considered about the verse(s):

- Who is speaking/writing?
- Who is the audience?
- What is the context?
- What is the dispensation/covenant?

For example, Peter, James and John primarily addressed the Jewish people, but Paul was the designated apostle to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. Then we must determine the eternal status of the audience; were they saved (believers)? Throughout the New Testament we must divide the message into five main audiences:

1. Saved Jew
2. Unserved Jew
3. Saved Gentile (Greek)
4. Unserved Gentile (Greek)
5. Church/Body of Christ (No distinction between Jew and Gentile)

Rightly Dividing the Word

The dispensation (housekeeping rules) of Grace began with the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. John the Baptist was the last Old Testament prophet under the dispensation of the Mosaic Law.

There are three main dispensations:

1. Abrahamic Covenant (Grace)
2. Mosaic Covenant (Law)
3. Grace Covenant (Church-Age)

As born-again Christians, we are no longer subject to any curses for disobedience. We are entitled to all the blessings that God promised to Abraham and Israel. Because of the Finished Works of Jesus, for us, all blessings for obedience have been released, and all curses for disobedience have been dismissed.

In these last days, we need to have absolute precision when it comes to application of Scripture in our lives. Jesus, through the Apostle Paul has shown us how to apprehend this precision.