

# RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

BY ARTHUR EGGERS

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman  
that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the  
word of truth.”*

2 Timothy 2:15

## PREFACE

### REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest**: Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation—abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

**Note:** Definitions of references pulled from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.

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## FIND THE SUBJECT

*"Of these things put them in remembrance, **CHARGING THEM** before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers." [2Ti.2:14]*

The first thing that is needed to rightly divide the Word is to find the subject. The subject of the above verse is found in the words "*charging them*" which refers to the "*faithful men*" in 2 Timothy 2:2. Timothy was to be an example of these "*faithful men*" by enduring hardness as a good soldier, a good athlete, a good farmer; and now, by rightly dividing "*the word of truth.*"

## STUDY

*"**STUDY** to **SHOW THYSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.**" [2Ti.2:15]*

The Greek word for **study** is **SPOUDAIOS** and means "*to be diligent, to make haste, or to endeavor.*" Many of God's people are indifferent concerning Word of God. They say,

- "It is alright to read the Bible but don't get too fanatical."
- "If it so happens that you don't have anything to do, there is no good programs on the television, or if you are in trouble—read the Bible, but it is really not very important."

Some may even say "I get enough of the Bible on Sunday."

*"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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." [2Ti.3:16-17]*

God proclaims that He honors His Word above His Name [Psa.138:2]. It is by the Word that the worlds were framed and that Jesus is the Word that was made flesh and dwelled among us. If the Word isn't the very most important thing in our life, then Jesus isn't either. So, if we love Jesus then we will love the Word and make haste to learn it. Let the Word become first place in your life: everything else will become secondary.

## REASON TO STUDY

Next, we look at the reason to study; it is to show ourselves "*approved unto God.*" The word **show** could also be translated "*percent*" meaning "*to place oneself beside or near another.*" How good it is to know that we are always in His presence. He knows all that we do, say, or think. Christ is the light inspector of Revelation 1:13: "*And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*" But there will be another time when all believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may **receive** the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad [2Co.5:10].

The Holy Spirit uses the Word to control our human spirit and enables us to walk in the Spirit. If left to itself, the human spirit is at enmity against God:

*"For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary one to the other; so the ye cannot do the things that ye would." [Gal.5:17]*

When we show ourselves to God we surely want to be well-pleasing to the One who loves us so much to send His son to die such a death as the death of the cross. When we are pleasing to God we are also pleasing to His Son, and will have no cause for shame, because "*the word of truth*" has been rightly divided and taught to others.

What does it mean to **rightly divide the word**? The thought is in the way that we handle the Word. The Greek word means to cut straight, to plow a straight furrow, to sail a straight course. What Paul is saying is to tell it like God is telling it, apply it to the same thing as God intended. There is a little song that says "*Every promise in the book is mine,*" but we know that every promise is not mine, some are for Christ rejecters, some are for the nation of Israel, and some for The Church. God's Word must be given to the one for whom it is intended.

How awful it would be if we came to the end of this life and found out that we had told it wrong and all of our labors were in vain and burned up as if by fire. Oh what a loss! So, let us cut it straight by giving no "*offence, neither to the Jews, nor the Gentiles, nor to the church of God*" [1Co.10:32]. The thought of this verse is that you give no occasion to cause someone to stumble or cause them to fall, whether they are a Jew, a Gentile, or of God's Church.

## THE 3 CLASSES GOD HAS ESTABLISHED

### THE JEWS

First, let us look at the Jews, The word **Jew** comes from Judah, the 4<sup>th</sup> son of Jacob's 12 sons (Note: Out of the Tribe of Judah Jesus Christ was born). After the death of Solomon, his son (Rehoboam) became king of Israel. During this time the people were upset concerning the taxes and began to complain, but Rehoboam took the advice from his peers rather than the elders and refused answering thusly:

*"And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." [1Ki 12:11]*

*"Even as I please **ALL MEN** in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of **MANY**, that they may be saved." [1Co.10:33]*

Because of this, the nation of Israel was divided into 2 parts. The 10 northern tribes choose Jeroboam as their king and the remaining 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin stayed with king Rehoboam.

Jeroboam was of Ephraim and could not claim any of the Davidic Covenant. He set up 2 cities for worship: One city was Dan, for those in the northern part of the kingdom, and the other city was Bethel, for the southern part. His reason was so that the people would not go to Jerusalem to worship and be drawn back to king Rehoboam. Jeroboam set up golden calves for the people to worship, and ordained priest that were not Levites. All this was out of God's will and He called it "*a sin*" [1Ki.12:30a]. Study 1 Kings 12:25-33. Jeroboam's sins are mentioned 15 times. And, because the 10 tribes were out of order, God removed them, and dispersed them among the

nations. Only 2 tribes, Judah and Benjamin, were left to worship God, but they soon begin to fall into the ways of the 10 tribes.

In about 600 B.C., God sent Babylon to destroy the land and the temple. After 70 years, God began to make way to bring them back into the land and rebuild the temple and the walls. From this time until Jesus Christ came, the people of Israel came to be known as **Jews**.

The word **Israel** is used 77 times in the New Testament, yet they are referred to as Jews. Jesus was a Jew. He was of the tribe of Judah, next in line to be king. So all of His words were directly to Jewish people.

His 12 apostles were instructed not to go into the way of the Gentiles. It is interesting to note that only a few Gentiles were touched by Jesus (see Mat.8:8, Mat.15:22-27, Mar.7:25).

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## THE GENTILES

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When the Scriptures speak of the Gentiles they are generally speaking of anyone that is not a Jew, or a descendent of Jacob [Isa.49:1-6]. The Jews were to be a light to the Gentiles, but they failed God in so many ways that God put them under Gentile authority; then, after 70 years they were allowed to return to their land. Although they put away their idols, they had such a pious and know-it-all attitude they rejected their king (Jesus Christ) and crucified Him; God left them in bondage.

After Stephen was stoned, God began turning to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were considered heathens because the Jewish leaders thought that the living God spoke only to them—but their eyes were blinded. After rejecting all that the apostles had said, God began to turn to the Gentiles. On the day of Pentecost The Church was baptized into one body (see 1Co.12:13).

Peter receives a special vision to teach the gospel to the Gentiles [Act.10-11:18, Act.15:12-19]. Peter continued to teach through Acts 12. At this time there was a transition period in which God was moving from the rejecting Jews to the Gentiles, and He choose Paul to be the chief apostle to the Gentiles; still giving the Jews more time to receive their Messiah, Jesus Christ, but they rebelled:

*"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." [Act.13:46]*

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## THE CHURCH

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The scripture is very plain concerning The Church [Eph.1:22-23]. The Church is the body of Christ, who arose from the dead and brought out of the grave a new creature, in which we become a part when we receive The Lord Jesus Christ into our heart as our Savior. This is eternal life—the only thing that was predestinated [Eph.1:3-6]. God has chosen us in Christ. A new resurrected body "*in heavenly places*" [Eph.3:3b]. This was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world in order that there would be a people before Him, holy and without blame, they are "*the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself*" [Eph.1:5]; in the Greek this reads: "**THESE ARE CALLED SON PLACED BY JESUS CHRIST UNTO HIMSELF.**"

The word used for **church** is the Greek word EKKLESIA, meaning of "*called out ones.*" It refers to a body of people who have been called out of the world, having been translated into the kingdom the Son of God's love. This is the believer's country, home, inheritance, love, and hope.

When this word [church](#) is used as a location, it should be translated “assembly” referring to the people and not a building made with hands. In Ephesians 2:20-22, The Church is called a spiritual building that was “*built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone*” [Eph.2:20].

## THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

This brings up another subject: [Who are the apostles and prophets?](#)

There were 12 kingdom apostles and they are listed in Matthew 10:2-5. Notice that in Acts 1-12 these names are predominant, but in Acts 13, Barnabus and Saul are sent out and Paul became the leader.

In Ephesians 2:20, the apostles and prophets are referred to as “*the foundation*” with Jesus Christ being the “*chief cornerstone*.” In 1 Corinthians 3:11, “*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*” There is no other foundation but Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul laid the foundation and others are still building upon it today.

There are 7 church apostles [Phl.2:25], they are:

1. Paul,
2. Barnabus,
3. Silas,
4. Timothy,
5. Titus,
6. Apollos, and
7. Epaphroditus.

## OTHER DIVISIONS

### THE AGES (TIME)

Let us talk of how God’s time has been divided. We could call time a parenthesis in eternity which of course has no time. The times of man (called [Ages](#)) are divided into 7 parts. Men have given them names fitting to the conditions of each time, they are:

1. Innocence,
2. Conscience,
3. Human Government,
4. Promise,
5. The Church,
6. Kingdom and

## 7. Eternity.

In these ages God worked with people in different way.

As God is an unchangeable God, this may seem confusing. I will explain by saying that God's Purpose was established before the world was created and is unmovable. But the way He brings His purpose to pass changes as He works with people. So, in each age God has given people an opportunity to prove that they are able to fulfill His purpose which is to have a people just like Him. He is perfect and demands perfection. As hard as they tried, the people fell short of the glory of God; therefore, God judged their efforts thus ending that age. The flood, then the tower called Babel, The Red Sea, the Lord Jesus on the cross, the nations judged, and lastly the Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15 have all ended, or will end, in judgment.

Today, we are living in The Church Age. We cannot go back into the Age of Law and bring those truths into our Church Age. Neither can we go forward into the Kingdom Age and lay hold of those promises, because The Church Age promises are heavenly and the Kingdom Age promises are earthly.

Someone may say, "Why should we even read the Old Testament or the Gospels if they are not for us?" The answer is, "God's principals do not change." There are 3 ways that we can gain by Old Testament studies: ❶Historically, ❷Prophetically, and ❸Typically. The history contained in the Old Testament has proven to be very accurate when compared with archaeology, even though the scholars can't seem to agree on dates. It is interesting how people lived back then; and, how those who believed God and walked with Him were kept by His grace even if they failed.

The Old Testament prophecy was primarily to the Jews. The Gentiles were in prophecy only as they were connected to the Jews. It thrills my heart how God brings His Word to pass as most all prophecy has an immediate partial fulfillment and then a greater and complete fulfillment in the last days.

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## HUMAN RACE

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God has also divided the human race into 2 divisions and gave each a head.

1. The head of the first was **Adam**, but this man brought the human race into sin and separation from God, so we needed another head to bring us back into fellowship with God.
2. So, God sent His Son (**Jesus Christ**).

*"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" [Gal.4:4].* Jesus came to be the head of the human race.

*"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." [1Co.15:22]*

*"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." [1Co.15:45]*

The human race was born in sin beginning with Adam and continues to be born in sin today. David said, *"Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"* [Psa.51:5]. Sin is in the warp and woof of our nature, and the one born of Adam can't keep from sinning. But God who is rich in mercy, sent His Son to die as the head of the human race—in God's sight all died.

When Jesus arose from the dead He brought out of the grave a new creation in which a person becomes a part when receiving the Christ.

*"But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." [Joh.1:12]*

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new." [2Co.5:17]*

This new life is the life that arose from the grave with Christ and will never die; it is just as eternal as Jesus. This new life cannot sin because it is born of God [1Jo.3:9].

In the New Testament there are a lot of names given to the Adamic life, such as, **Old Man**, **Carnal Man**, and **The Flesh**.

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## TYPES AND SHADOWS

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When we think of types and shadows we must realize that in the Scriptures God is always talking to us about His Son. From Genesis through Revelation God uses prophecy, people, things, and circumstances to tell us of Jesus Christ.

- In Galatians 4:22-31, Paul uses the life of Abraham's family as an allegory concerning our freedom from The Law.
- In Colossians 2:16-17, Paul calls the Old Testament ordinances a "*shadow of things to come*"; but the body is of Christ.

How wonderful to look upon these paintings and see a picture of Christ. Every number, every color has a meaning. Oh! How good it is to be able to rightly divide the Scriptures.

How God blessed Timothy with a godly mother and grandmother to teach him the Word from a child [2Ti.3:15-17]. And with Paul, a spiritual father, who took him under his wing, to teach him that all Scripture is God breathed.

In conclusion, I want to encourage all of God's people to put forth an effort to learn the Word. Many of God's people believe in tithing—how about giving God 24 hours-a-day in His Word, maybe even meeting with other saints. Do however God leads you, but do it!

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