

SOME BASIC PRINCIPALS OF RIGHT DIVISION

When people talk about religion, they sometimes refer to it as their faith.

So, let's establish WHERE faith comes from:

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Since faith comes from hearing God's Word, let's see what claims God's word makes:

Psa 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Psa 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Prov 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Another name that God's word is called is scripture:

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Next, let's read how God communicated it to mankind in a book through His prophets. They knew they were 'writing the Bible' and adding to God's Book:

Exo 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Josh 24:26 And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

1 Sam 10:25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

Isa 30:8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

Jer 30:2 Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.

God designed for His word to be preserved through copies:

Deut 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

Prov 25:1 These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

When Timothy's mother and grandmother taught God's Word to him, they would not have had the original manuscripts, but copies that had been translated into their language:

2 Tim 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

So, when we look to matters of faith, we look for the truth and it is found in the Holy Word of God:

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Next, it is important to see the METHOD that GOD gave for us to understand His Word:

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

FAILURE to 'rightly divide' God's word has bad consequences:

2 Peter 3:15-16 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

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 (that means 'twist'), as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

With that foundation, let's get started by rightly RECOGNIZING where GOD divided His word!

Almost everybody would tell you today that a person is saved by grace (even though they don't know where to find it in the scriptures) but beyond that they are CONFUSED whether they realize it or not.

We are going to be looking at a lot of CONTRASTS this morning:

We can start with the very FIRST division God made in the very first verse of the Bible.

There we see **2 LOCATIONS**

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Next, we can see that God had **2 PURPOSES** (A purpose for each location)

God intends to move onto this planet to live with the Jews in Mt. Zion in Jerusalem
and establish His KINGDOM here on the earth:

Exo 29:45 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

Zech 8:3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

God's Kingdom will be set up through the physical descendents of King David:

2 Sam 7:16-17 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

The nation Israel knew all along that it was coming:

Deut 11:21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

Jesus even instructed His 12 disciples to pray for it to come:

Matt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

.... and one day in the future God's kingdom literally WILL come to earth:

Rev 21:2-3 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

We contrast God's purpose for the earth (where God's kingdom is coming DOWN)

with His purpose for the heavens (where we learn through Paul's writings)

that God is going to take us UP.

Get 2 passages that are about the same event --- 1 Cor. 15 and 1 Thess. 4:

1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thess 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (in the air, in the heavens)

God will have a kingdom BOTH on the earth and in the heavens:

2 Tim 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

God's kingdom will be in BOTH locations --- because HE is the 'most high God.'

THAT was the very TITLE that Satan wanted in Isa. 14:14 because he wanted control:

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

So we observe again, the 2 locations where God will rule. Paul tells us:

Col 1:16-17 For by him (that is, Christ) were all things created, Notice the 2 locations: that are in heaven, and that are in earth,

visible (those are on the earth) and invisible, (those are in heaven)

Next, we read just what those things are! They are governmental authority:

whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers:

all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things (that's those positions of rulership) he (Christ) might have the preeminence.

Right now at this present time both places have been defiled by sin:

Job 15:15 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, (that's the heavens) the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

2 Cor 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world (that's the earth) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

But in the future, God will bring everything back under the control of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Now, let's look at **2 KINDS of REVELATION**

God's kingdom program for the earthly saints was the subject of **PROPHECY**

(things God has been telling all along)

Luke 1:68-70 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

God's program for the heavenly saints was the subject of **MYSTERY**

(things that were NOT revealed until Paul got them)

Rom 16:25-26 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my (Paul's) gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

Col 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

NOW God wants everyone to know about the mystery (what was previously hidden):

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Eph 6:19 (**Praying**) And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Next, let's see that there are **2 ENTITIES that are GOD'S PEOPLE**

In the past, God's special people was the nation Israel. It began with Abraham:

Gen 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (**Abraham's son was Isaac, Isaac's son was Jacob, Jacob had 12 sons - then his name was changed to Israel - so it's their families**)

Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Deut 7:6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Psa 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Right now, Israel is no longer God's favored nation. NOW, it makes no difference:

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; (Now we learn through Paul that the 'wall' that God put around Israel --- to separate them from the rest of the world --- has been torn down)

Now through the 'mystery revelation' God committed to the apostle Paul,

we see that God's people today are called the 'Body of Christ':

1 Cor 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Next, let's look at

2 OPERATING PRINCIPALS

God made several covenants with His people Israel. For now, we will consider

2 COVENANTS that God made with ISRAEL which happen to be a matter of much confusion today. The First or Old testament is 'the LAW' that God gave through Moses:

Exo 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Israel had a clear CHOICE - blessing or cursing - based on their behavior, their works:

Deut 11:26-28 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;
27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse, if ye will NOT obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

The OLD covenant was STILL in effect when Jesus lived on earth:

Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

In His earthly life, Jesus KEPT the old covenant perfectly and completely:

Matt 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Most people agree that the OLD covenant (often called 'the LAW') has passed away, but they wrongly think that WE live under the NEW testament. The scripture plainly says that it was also for Israel. The New one would replace the Old one:

Heb 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Jer 31:31-33 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a NEW covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; **(that was the OLD covenant)** which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

BUT NOW, through Paul's writings to the Body of Christ, we find a DIFFERENT operating principal that God is ruling with today --- the one that everybody likes: **GRACE**

Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Rom 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **gift** of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Now, let's compare some things --- so YOU can see the differences for yourself:

GRACE

Paul said it is NOT by works:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Titus 3:5-6 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Paul said we already HAVE forgiveness:

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

We should forgive others, because we have already been forgiven ... not to get it:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake HATH forgiven you.

Paul says Christ's blood was shed for ALL:

1 Tim 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

2 Cor 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

LAW (Remember the 'If' - 'then' principal)

Peter said it IS by works:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Moses said it IS by works:

Deut 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

Jesus made Israel's forgiveness conditional upon whether or not they held a grudge:

Matt 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

John made Israel's forgiveness conditional upon confessing their sins:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The NEW covenant message was that Christ's blood was for many:

Matt 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matt 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Now through Paul's writings, we are NOT promised physical healing. We get it inside instead:

2 Co 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Paul initially had miraculous power to heal (as a sign of his apostleship), but eventually he lost it (with the completion of the scriptures):

1 Tim 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

2 Tim 4:20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

Paul says for us to decide for ourselves and give whatever we WANT to:

2 Cor 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

We're supposed to get a JOB, so we'll be able to help others financially:

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

God doesn't need our money. Today, we should give (or SPEND) for the work of the ministry giving out the gospel of GRACE!

Israel was promised physical healing:

Exo 15:26 And said, **IF** thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt DO that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and KEEP all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Jesus healed every person who asked:

Matt 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

Jesus commissioned His 12 apostles to not only heal, but raise the dead:

Matt 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Israel had to pay tithes (plural -- more than one 10%):

Mal 3:8-10 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

But look at the very first verse of Malachi:

Mal 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

In Paul's writings, we can eat anything we want to eat:

1 Tim 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

Through Paul's writings, we have only ONE baptism, a spiritual one:

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Rom 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Paul says we already have our sins put away:

Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

God told Adam to be a vegetarian:

Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

God told Noah to eat animals:

Gen 9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

In Lev. 11 and Deut. 14, God gave Israel a list of clean animals they could eat and unclean animals they could NOT eat.

Israel had to be water baptized for salvation and remission of sins:

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Peter said the same thing at Pentecost:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Israel has to wait until Christ returns:

Acts 3:19-20 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

This is David Dowell saying Think about it