

THE INSTRUCTOR



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

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

Although from childhood, Timothy had "known the holy Scriptures" (2 Timothy 3:15), and at the time of Paul's letters to him, he had "unfeigned faith" (2 Timothy 1:5), the apostle Paul wrote and admonished him: "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). God does not approve of those who do not give diligence enough to **RIGHTLY DIVIDE** the word of God. Such a person ought to be ashamed. It is a certain fact that one cannot **PROPERLY DIVIDE** God's Word if he does not study.

The Bible is an inspired Book! (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Eph. 3:2-6). It consists of 66 books with two major divisions--the Old Testament and the New Testament. In a general way, the Old Testament Scriptures cover a period from the creation of the earth and its inhabitants until about 400 years before the birth of Christ. The New Testament Scriptures cover a period from the birth of Jesus until about the close of the first century.

Approximately 40 men wrote the Bible over a period of about 1500 years; yet when compiled, their writings make a complete and harmonious book. A marvel indeed! But to understand it, we must "**RIGHTLY DIVIDE**" it.

In order for us to "rightly divide" the Bible, we must understand that there are three major dispensations or periods of time.

FIRST, the "Patriarchal" age which embraced about 2500 years--from the creation of man to the giving of the law through Moses. **SECONDLY**, The "Mosaic" age embraced about 1500 years--from the giving of the law through Moses to the cross of Christ. **THIRDLY**, the "Gospel" age or the "last days" which so far has lasted more than 1900 years--from the day of Pentecost (as mentioned in Acts 2) until now and will continue until the end of time.

It is important that we recognize these various periods of time if we would "rightly divide" the word of truth. We do not live in either the "Patriarchal" or "Mosaic" age, but in the "last days". Thus we must learn, believe and submit to the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament which is the "perfect law of liberty". (James 1:25).

There are many commands given as recorded in the Bible that were not intended for us today. For example, the command in Gen. 6:14 to "Make thee an ark of gopher wood..." was given to Noah and was never intended for anyone else. The command in Gen. 22:2 to "Take now thy son...and offer him there for a burnt offering..." was given to Abraham. The ten commandments, as such, which included the command to "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" were given to the children of Israel who at one time were in Egypt in bondage

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A WIFE SHOULD BE A GOOD HOUSEKEEPER

A woman's feminine endowments have especially equipped her for home making. She may not be especially equipped to be an astronaut, a brick mason, or a boxer, but the touch of her hand can transform a hut into a palace. There is much more involved in "making a home" than most people realize. In addition to keeping a tidy house, the housewives should make an atmosphere of friendliness, happiness, cheerfulness, cooperation and love. Paul said that "younger women marry, bear children, **guide the house** and give no occasion for the adversary to speak reproachfully." (I Tim. 5:14). Concerning the expression "**guide the house**," W.E. VINE says: "**the meaning being that of the management and direction of household affairs**". (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF N.T. WORDS).

To be a "**keeper (worker) at home**" is the chief work of a wife. Here she has no equal. She is supreme. In the home, a woman's first and her last work is to be done. Perhaps the reason some men spend so much of their spare time away from the home is because of a nagging wife, sloven in appearance, who gads about, showing little or no interest in him, or his work, or their children or domestic affairs. Such a woman has truly caused the Word of God to be blasphemed.

WORKERS AWAY FROM HOME

According to some figures I saw several years ago, approximately 64% of American married women work away from home. There are more than 26,000,000 working and of these women 4,000,000 of them are mothers with children under six years of age.

Once set, a pattern of working away from home is difficult to break. Women used to take time out from their duties for a temporary job but now many take time out from the permanent jobs for temporary home duties. Many take time off from their jobs to have babies--not take care of them, but just to deliver them!

WORKING WIVES

WHY DO WIVES SEEK EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE THE HOME? Less than 1/2 of the married women work away from the home because of financial necessity. Most wives who work outside the home do so, not

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Editorial . . .

WIVES: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES!

(No. 5)

Many blessings are provided for wives who are Christians. Along with these blessings, many responsibilities come. **Wives should not depart from their husbands**, but if they do depart, they should not go further into sin by marrying someone else. **They should remain unmarried or be reconciled to their husbands. Wives should not be contentious. Neither should they discourage their husbands in that which is right nor privately agree with their husbands to deceive. But wives should be helps meet for their husbands, render unto them due benevolence, love them, obey them, be sober, discreet, chaste and reverence their husbands. Wives also have the responsibility to be "keepers at home."** Let us consider that responsibility.

KEEPERS AT HOME

In speaking sound doctrine, Timothy was to teach aged women to teach the young women to be "keepers at home" that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young women are not being properly trained by elderly women unless they are trained to be "keepers at home". Young women should be taught to be "**domestic**", i.e. to be "**devoted to home duties...**" In defining the expression "**keepers at home**", THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 442 says "**keeping at home and taking care of household affairs; domestic...**"

WIVES: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

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because of necessity, but because they want to. Some of them work outside the homes in order to have the little "extras" they want and others do so because they like the feeling of independency that comes with drawing their own pay check. A few wives admit they just don't like house work. Some work because of "nerves" and others work because they have "too much time on their hands", they say.

Many of those wives who work outside the home because of supposed financial necessity could get by on their husband's income if they would be content to do so. (Paul said: ..."Godliness with contentment is great gain." I Tim. 6:6). Of course, they could not have some of the "extras" they might desire.

STRAIN PLACED ON MARRIAGE

A severe strain is often placed on the marriage relationship when the wife secures employment outside the home. No man likes to come home to an empty house, and many times to an "unkempt" house. Women who work outside the home tend to become more independent and less submissive. (cf. I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-24).

Constant pressure at the factory or office tends to make her more weary, nervous, tense, irritable and more susceptible to complaining, nagging and quarreling at the end of the day. Sexual relations may become an unwelcome duty to be fulfilled only when seemingly unavoidable. (cf. I Cor. 7:3-5).

There is a greater temptation for the wife to become attracted to another man with whom she spends more of her working hours and with whom she is in closer contact than with her husband. Frequently, the "secretary" does get "involved" with her "boss."

No marriage can succeed as it should under such unfavorable circumstances.

(CRS)

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7. Christ is the Saviour of the church (Eph. 5:23).

8. The Kingdom, which is the church, will be delivered to God in the end of time. (I Cor. 15:23-24).

(CRS)

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH (Ex 20:1-23; Deut. 5:1-22) but were not intended to govern us in "the last days." The commands of Jesus to "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils..." (Mt. 10:8) were given to His twelve apostles during His personal ministry, but were not extended to us. Although some people of John's generation were promised Holy Spirit baptism, (Mt. 3:10-12), there is nothing to indicate that it was intended for all believers. In Acts 1:1-8 Jesus specifically promised the apostles Holy Spirit baptism. Luke records the fact that Cornelius and his household received it in Acts 10 and 11. We are misapplying the Scriptures if we claim that these verses teach that believers today are to receive Holy Spirit baptism. By A.D. 64, there was only ONE baptism. (Eph. 4:4-6). This was obviously water baptism that was commanded by Jesus in the great commission. (See Mt. 28: 18-20).

Jesus took away the first covenant or testament that He might establish the second. (Heb. 10:9-10). We are under the New Testament today. (Heb. 8:7-13). It is "the perfect law of liberty" by which we shall be judged. (Jas. 1:25; 2:12). In contrast with the Old Testament that was dedicated with animal blood, the New Testament was dedicated with the blood of Christ. (Heb. 9:11-22). To be saved by His blood, we must meet the terms of His testament. (Heb. 9:16-17; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41).

(CRS)

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CAN THE CHURCH SAVE YOU?

THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT

1. Christ loved the church and purchased it with His blood. (Eph. 5:25-27; Acts 20-28).

2. The church was in God's eternal purpose. (Eph. 3:10-11).

3. Jesus is its builder, (Mt. 16:18), foundation, (I Cor. 3:11), and head. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22:23).

4. Reconciliation is in the body, which is the church. (Eph. 2:14-16).

5. God is glorified in the church. (Eph. 3:21).

6. The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church. (Eph. 3:10).

(Continued in column 1)

CAN THE CHURCH SAVE YOU?

In an effort to minimize the church, some people say, "the church can not save you." Usually they mean by this that the church is not essential to salvation; that a person may be saved, live right and go to heaven without ever being a member of the church. But is this so? Is this really what the Bible teaches?

If by "the church" a person means "a denomination", then we must agree that "A denomination can Not save you." In fact we must further say that a denomination is not only NON-ESSENTIAL to salvation, but that a person can NOT be saved in a denomination. Those who foster and encourage denominationalism are guilty of sin. Jesus said: "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (Mt. 15:13).

It is true that Jesus Christ, and not the church, is the Savior. However the church is composed of the saved. Acts 2:47 says, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Our blessed Lord said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mk. 16:16). It is impossible for one to be saved and not be a member of the Lord's church.

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THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

As another calendar year is winding down, and opportunities for **Albert Hill** and the **West Hobbs Street "elders"** to make good their promise to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE have come and gone, we are still waiting patiently (or impatiently) to receive some positive indication that they are men of "honor and integrity." **No**, as of this date, they still have **not** make any affirmative response to their promise. They are still responsible for their actions and bound to their agreement.

Only God knows how long they will continue to have opportunity to **keep their word and fulfill their promise**. Of course, they can **never** fulfill the part of their promise to re-schedule the debate in "a short time." They will give account unto God in judgment for failing to keep their word in that respect.

THE SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE

The Sutton-Sharp Debate on Holy Spirit Baptism is scheduled to be conducted April 3,4,6, & 7, 1978.

Sentence Sermons

Experience is what you get while looking for something else.

Curvature of the moral spine is an affliction which only the Great Physician can cure.

A task worth doing and friends worth having make life worth living.

A good way to break a habit is to drop it.

Be big enough to admit and admire the abilities of people who are better than you are.

Fads come and go, but good sense goes on forever.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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