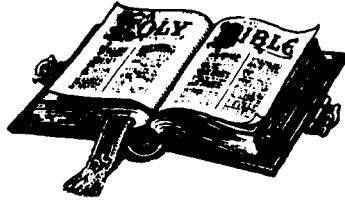


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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LOST BELIEVERS

There are some people who teach that **all believers** (those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God) will be saved. However, a study of the Scriptures will reveal that there are some believers who will **not** be saved! Obviously, **they will be lost!** Let us consider some **believers who will be lost.**

1. **THE DEMONS!** No one would say that the demons will be saved in heaven. Yet **they are believers!** James said: "**Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble.**" (James 2:19; CRS --Some translations say "demons.")

2. **THE RULERS OF JOHN 12 WHO DID NOT CONFESS CHRIST!** We read: **Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**" (John 12:42-43) **NOTE:** Cf. Matthew 10:32-33).

3. **THE BELIEVER WHO MAKES SHIPWRECK OF HIS**

FAITH! In exhorting Timothy, Paul said: "**Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander: whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.**" (1 Timothy 1:19-20).

4. **THE BELIEVER THAT ERRS CONCERNING THE TRUTH!** In 2 Timothy 2: 17-18 Paul said: "**And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.**" **QUESTION:** Do you believe that a believer who teaches that the resurrection is past already and overthrow the faith of believers will be saved?

5. **THE BELIEVER WHO DEPARTS FROM THE FAITH WILL BE LOST!** Paul said: "**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some**

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CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.
Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH (Part 1)

In order to **know** the truth that is able to make us **free, purify, save and sanctify us**, it is essential that we **STUDY** (i.e., **give diligence**) to "**rightly divide the word of truth.**" (See John 8:32; I Peter 1:22; James 1:21; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 2:15). This would imply that it is possible for one to mishandle, pervert or "**wrongly divide**" the word of truth. "**Rightly dividing the word of truth**" means "**rightly dealing with the word of truth.**" It means **teaching accurately** the Scriptures according to VINE'S Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.

In order to "**rightly divide the word of truth**" there are a number of basic principles we need to understand and keep in mind. Here is **one** of them.

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES — THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES AND THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES! Although a number of other things are discussed in both Old and New Testament Scriptures (such as the creation of the heavens and earth

(and all things therein), the flood, the call of Abraham, Jacob and his sons and the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt in the Old Testament Scriptures and the genealogy of Christ, the birth and work of John the Baptist, the birth, life, work and teaching of Jesus, His death, burial, resurrection and ascension into heaven, etc. in the New Testament Scriptures) **there are two major testaments** (i.e., **covenants or laws**) discussed — the **Old (or First) Covenant** and the **New (or Second or Last) Covenant**. Let us briefly consider these **two testaments**.

1. **The Old Covenant (or law) that was given by Moses to the Israelites was limited and provisional.** This law was **not** given to Adam nor to Abraham. There is **no proof** that this law was ever given to people who were Gentiles. (Note: Of course a Gentile could become a proselyte to the Jewish religion). Read and carefully study Exodus 20:1-26; Deuteronomy 5 and 6; Exodus 34:27-28; 31:12-18; John 1:17 & Galatians 3:19-27.

2. **The New Covenant (or law) that was given by Jesus Christ to govern all men was to last to the end of the world.** Read and carefully study John 1:17; Hebrews 1:1-4; Acts 3:22-23; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 9:15-17; Luke 24:46-47; Hebrews 8:6; 13:20; John 6:63; 14:6; 12:48; James 1:25 & James 2:12.

A candid study of Hebrews 7:12; 7:19-28; 8:6-13; 9:1-28; 10:1-17; Galatians 3:19-27; Romans 7:1-7; Colossians 2:14-17; Ephesians 2:14-22; Romans 8:2; 10:4 and Galatians 5:1-4 will show that the **first covenant (testament)** was taken out of

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RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

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the way and is no longer in force (effect) but that we are **now** under a **new** (the **second**) covenant (i.e., testament or law).

NOTE: Although God **inspired** both old and New Testament Scriptures, we ought to be careful that we properly use them.

As we continue our study of "**Rightly dividing the word of truth**," let us understand and keep in mind **another basic principle** if we would properly use and teach accurately the Scriptures. Here it is.

NOT EVERY COMMAND IN THE SCRIPTURES APPLIES TO US! Many people fail to understand God's Will for them and they thus **err** because they do **not** understand this basic principle. We learn from Hebrews 1:1-4 that in times past (i.e., before the last days which began as recorded in Acts 2) God spake to the fathers by the prophets, but in these last days God hath spoken unto us "**by His Son**." (Also see Acts 3:22-23; John 12:48; James 1:25; 2:12). Here are some examples of things recorded in the Old Testament Scriptures that do **not** apply to us in this dispensation.

1. **The command God gave to Adam not to eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."** (See Genesis 2:16-17).

2. **The command God gave to Noah to build an ark.** (See Genesis 6:5-22).

3. **The command God gave to Abraham to offer his son Issaac as a burnt offering.** (See Genesis 22:1-2).

4. **The command that required a husband's brother to marry his brother's widow.** (See Deuteronomy 25:5).

5. **The command to the Israelites to "make an altar to burn incense upon."** (See Exodus 30:1).

6. **The command to not eat of "unclean" meats.** (See Leviticus 11).

7. **The command to Saul to "utterly destroy" Amalek.** (See 1 Samuel 15:3).

8. **The command to Naaman to "wash in Jordan seven times."** (See 2 Kings 5:1-10).

9. **The command God gave to Moses to "make three two trumpets of silver."** (See Numbers 10:1-2).

10. **The command God gave to the Israelites to keep the sabbath day holy.** (See Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 1-15; esp. verses 1-6 & 15).

11. **The command to the apostles to heal the sick and raise the dead.** (See Matthew 10:8).

12. **The command to the apostles to "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."** (See Luke 24; 49).

NOTE: Let us keep in mind that there are **many commands** in the Bible that do **NOT** apply to us! Let us give diligence that we may be able to discern which ones apply and which ones do **NOT** apply.

(To be continued) (CRS)

LOST BELIEVERS

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shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." (1 Timothy 4:1-2). QUESTION: Will such a believer be saved? NOTE: The fact that some depart from the faith is evidence that they are believers.

6. **THE BELIEVER WHO BY TRANSGRESSION FALLS LIKE JUDAS ISCARIOT!** Please consider the following passages.

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"WALKING IN THE LIGHT"

In order to be cleansed by the blood of Christ, we (God's children) must **"walk in the light."** (See 1 John 1:7). In order to be forgiven of sins we must **repent, confess our sins and pray.** (See Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9 & James 5:16).

If the expression **"walk(ing) in the light"** does **not** include **repentance, confession and prayer,** it is obvious that in order to be cleansed by the blood (& thus be forgiven of our sins), we must **"walk in the light"** and we must **ALSO repent, confess our sins and pray.** NOTE: The **sum** of God's Word is truth! (See Psalms 119:160 ASV).

It may be, however, that the expression, **"walk(ing) in the light"** **includes** our **repentance, confession of sins and prayer for forgiveness** when we are guilty of transgressing God's law.

QUESTION: Does **"walk(ing) in the light"** **exclude** what verse 9 and other passages require? Surely not!

(CRS)

LOST BELIEVERS

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Luke 6:13 — **"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles."** NOTE: Verse 16 names Judas Iscariot.

Acts 1:25 — **"...From which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."**

John 17:12 — **"...Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled."** Also read Psalms 109.

Believers such as demons, believers who do not confess Christ, who make shipwreck of their faith, who errs concerning the truth (saying that the resurrection is past already and overthrow the faith of others), who departs from the faith or who by transgression falls **will be lost!** These believers who will be lost are believers who do **NOT** obey the will of God! (CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Don't merely find fault but find a remedy.

* * * * *

Just as tears cleanse grief, so does laughter cleanse anger.

* * * * *

Of all things you wear, your expression is the most important.

* * * * *

You never know until you try to reach them how accessible people are; but you must approach each person by the right door.

* * * * *

Blowing out another fellow's candle will not make yours shine any brighter.

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