

Grace Gospel Ministry

Bible Study Series

www.gracegospelministry.com

Welcome to the Grace Gospel Ministry Bible Study Series. These spirit filled bible lessons written by Pastor George D. Cutler, in coordination with the Grace Gospel Church of Detroit ministerial staff provides clear conscience explanation of biblical text in a lesson form highlighting the prescribed doctrine for today's Church.




Each lesson foundation is drawn from the Holy Scripture Epistles (Romans-Hebrews) which contain set directives and teaching for the Body of Christ, and will answer a host of questions posed by our

online viewers on crucial doctrinal matters:

- Salvation: How are people saved?
- How to study the bible: *Academic principles for proper bible study.*
- Dispensations and Covenants: *Distinctions between Israel and the Church*
- What is the Revelation of the “Mystery”: *unveiling the Body Members of Christ*
- Election and predestination
- The depravity of man and free will
- The Sovereignty of God
- Understanding the true spiritual, essence of life [actualized] in eternity from the temporal, physical appearances of people, places and things [manifested] in time.

The GGM Bible Study Series walks you through key doctrinal subjects with the teaching in context, utilizing the exact meaning of Greek words and phrases with in the contexts in which they are used. This expository teaching method puts together the meaning of each verse to the comprehensive thought of the surrounding context. Simply put, *“the meaning of the scriptures IS conveyed in the context of the scripture.”*

OUR PRAYER as you participate in these Bible Study Series: *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints”*.  Ephesians 1:17-18

LESSON ONE: “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” II Timothy 2:15

- Pastor Pen Excerpt
- Lesson One Introduction and Exercises

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Today we find ourselves inundated with many diversities and perceptions of what the truth of the Word of God is. In Spite of this we should be encouraged that there is an answer and a basis for hope. The solution is found in rightly handling the Word of God (II Tim. 2:15). If we will take the Bible literally and keep each book and letter in tiths intended orbit, we will be moving toward distinguishing between things that differ (Phil. 1:9-10). As we spiritually and intelligently approach the Bible in this manner, we are forced to reorganize the distinct revelation of truth for the Church, the body of Christ, which was given to the Apostle Paul (I Corth. 2:6-10, Gal. 1:12). Paul refers to this message as "my gospel" (Rom.2:16; 16:25-26, II Tim. 2:8) and as the "Gospel of the Grace of God" (Acts 20:24). This means that in the dispensation of grace age, we should be majoring in the Epistles written to the churches, namely Paul's and those in alignments with them.

Once it is fully understood that the primary message for the dispensation of grace is found in the Epistles written to the churches of pertaining to them, consideration should be given to the significance of the principle of emphasis. This principle rests upon the premise that the truth, which God has revealed through the writers of the Bible, varies in importance. Basically, this principle means that the truth is derived from identification with the writer in emphasis. In other word, Paul heads the dispensation of grace; thus his writings define more directly the message for grace! As the Apostle Paul's fourteen Epistles (Hebrews included) are studied and considered; the truth for this dispensation is presented in each of them.

The Grace Gospel Church Ministry is committed to accuracy and emphasis in the pursuit of ascertaining what is being literally taught in the epistles to the Church. We believe that the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (the Teacher) has provided a perfect balance of truth that is a sound basis for establishing the intended message for the body of Christ.

“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”

Scripture Text Lesson One



Romans 15:4; 8-9

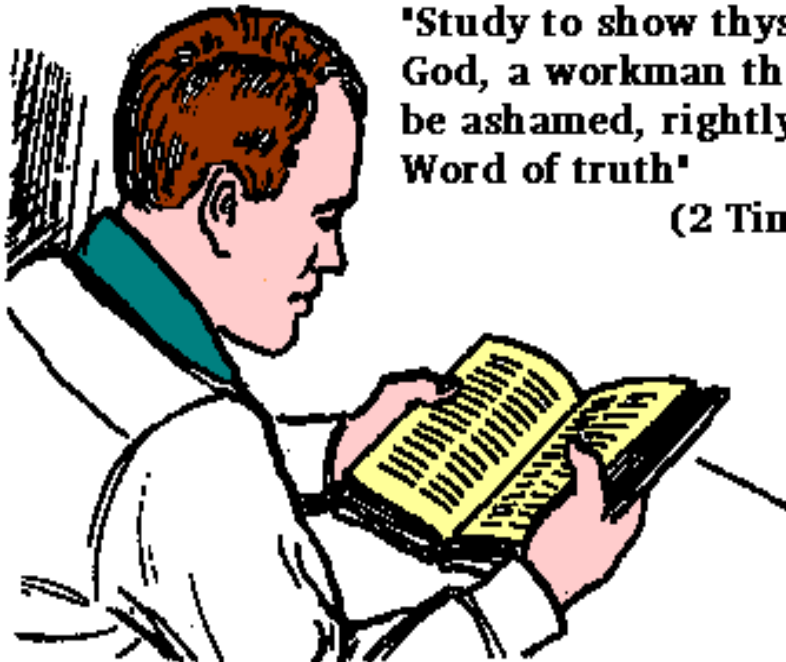
4 For as much as was previously written, it was written for our teaching, in order that through the patience and through the comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.

8 For I say that Christ has been made a minister of the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God, unto the end to confirm the promises of the fathers,

9 and the Gentiles on behalf of mercy to glorify God; even as it is (has been) written, on account of this I will confess you among the Gentiles and I will sing to your name.

II Timothy 2:15

15 Endeavor to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed worker, cutting straight the word of truth.



'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)

Rightly Dividing the Bible

Scriptures: Romans 15:4; 8-9; II Timothy 2:15

Key Point: *God's people should rightly divide the Bible*

Key Verse: *II Timothy 2:15 "Endeavor to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed worker, cutting straight the word of truth."*

Lesson One Introduction

One of the greatest inaccuracies, of all Biblical suppositions is the standard practice of dividing or designating the Bible into two sections, (1) the Old Testament and (2) the New Testament. The Greek Word in the Bible is translated both covenant and testament, which means both a contract and a will. If we look at all messages in the Bible and simply classify them either Old or New Testament or Covenants, this could not possibly represent all the covenants or contracts that God made with those that He identified as His elect down through the ages of time. The Mosaic Law (later called the Old Covenant or Old Testament) was made after many years of human history had passed. So during the times before that, there was no law during the time from Adam to Moses because there was no Law until God gave it to Moses. Before the Mosaic Covenant was given, God dealt with men through His moral principles. So none of the covenants in the book of Genesis, i.e., the Edenic, Adamic, Noahic and Abrahamic could be correctly be called the "Old" Testament or Covenant because it is actually the Law, which is the covenant (contract) that God made with the nation Israel.

This means that none of the Old Testament is actually in Genesis because Israel didn't even become a nation until after she was her delivered from Egypt, which occurred in the book of Exodus. So Israel was previously known as the Hebrews that lived under the Abrahamic covenant (contract or testament) until Moses received the Law from God. So it is correct to say that the Mosaic Covenant (contract), begins in Exodus as the "Old" Testament. The term "New Testament" or "New covenant," begins with the messages of the Prophets such as in Jeremiah chapter 31. These writings of the prophets speak of the carrying out God's promises, which are the messages of eternal blessings given to Abraham as his agreement with God. The promises of these blessings are also given in other messages as they were prophesied to Moses, concerning Israel's promise land and eternal

Kingdom on earth that was prophesied to the Prophet Nathan concerning the eternal rein of Jesus Christ upon David's throne in Jerusalem.

These writings of the prophets verify that these prophecies occurred when Israel was under the Law but these promises were to occur at a future time. So the beginning of the New Covenant or Testament was to come until the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9:15 says, (KJV) "He is the mediator of a new testament, (covenant) that by means of death, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." As the Lord communed with His disciples, He said, "This cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:20). So no part of the New Testament could come into effect until after Calvary, historically speaking. This means that most of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark Luke and John) are actually under the "Old Testament" rather than the "New Testament." So the ministering of the Kingdom gospel, i.e., "the kingdom is at hand," as preached by John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus as well as the 12 disciples and the 70 were all actually under the Old Covenant at that time. Both the Old and New Testaments have some universal principles that affect us as members of the Body of Christ in this grace age but they were all made with and directly applicable to Israel. So the Kingdom Gospel speaks of the New Covenant or New Testament promises that Israel will one day walk in obedience as required of her by God under the Law or Old Testament that is defined in Deuteronomy 5:1-3 but it will be done according to Jeremiah chapter 31.

Thus the divisions of the Bible are not actually two parts (old and new covenants) but **seven** according to different dispensations of God's dealings with His people doing the ages. So the Bible should be divided according to dispensations and covenants. The most important division is between the dispensations of the Kingdom Gospel, which speaks of the New Covenant or New Testament prophecy and its difference from the Grace (church age) or Gospel, which speaks of the Mystery that was revealed to the Apostle Paul. The main difference is that the Kingdom message is dealing with eternal earthly blessings but the Grace Message deals with eternal spiritual blessings that are heavenly. In other words God's elect in the Kingdom receive the eternal earthly Kingdom promises while God's elect of the Grace age are members of the Body of Christ and receive the eternal Heavenly spiritual promises.

Explanation of Scriptures

Romans 15:4

4 “For as much as was previously written, it was written for our teaching, in order that through the patience and through the comfort of the scriptures we might have hope”.

The phrase “for as much as was previously written” refers to what had been written before the Apostle Paul’s message. The reason why these things were written was “for our teaching” or for our “instruction and information.” The primary purpose of these messages in other eras is “for our teaching.” It is for our sakes that these scriptures are included in the Bible to show us “patience or endurance” and “comfort or encouragement” so that we might have hope. *Here the thought is that when God’s people in this present Church age read scriptures that were written before Paul’s message, they will serve to inspire us to have greater endurance, encouragement and be strengthened in our hope.*

Romans 15:8-9

8 For I say that Christ has been made a minister of the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God, unto the end to confirm the promises of the fathers, **9** and the Gentiles on behalf of mercy to glorify God; even as it is (has been) written, On account of this I will confess you among the Gentiles and I will sing to your name.

In verse 8, *the phrase “has been made,” speaks of the fact that God has made Christ as a minister of the circumcision.* In the phrase “Christ was made a minister of the circumcision,” the word “minister,” means one who serves or attends to others. So this means that Christ was a minister, teacher and preacher of the Gospel of the Kingdom that was preached to the Jews (Matthews 4:17, 23; 10:25). *This is why the Jews are called the “circumcision,” which means that they are Abraham’s natural seed and who the “circumcision” refers to* (Galatians 2:9). What Christ ministered to the “circumcision” was “on behalf of the truth of God” or for the sake of the truth of God according to their covenant principles.

The phrase “the truth of God” in this verse has reference to the Old Testament truth of the prophesied Messianic Kingdom messages (Matthew 22:16; 3:2; 4:23; 9:25; Acts 3:18-26). The main purpose of Jesus Christ’s Earthly ministry was not to minister to the Body of Christ, the Church but “to confirm the promises of Israel the fathers.” This statement means that the promises that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, that 1). He will be the father of a great nation, 2). in him all the families of the Earth will be blessed and 3). in the Earth, there will be a righteous kingdom (Psalms 22:27-28; 145:11-13; Isaiah 32:1; 33:17-22; Jeremiah 23:5-8).

It is very important to recognize that verse 9 speaks of certain provisions of salvation for elect Gentiles. The thought from verse 8 to 9 is that Christ was a minister of the truth of God to fulfill the Abrahamic and New Covenants and He was also a minister of the Gentiles because of the mercy of God. Hence Christ was the minister fulfilling God’s promises of the Kingdom but even above that fact, God had predestined or foreordained individuals with no distinction, which is the revelation of the original

prophecy that says, "I will confess you among the Gentiles and I will sing to your name" (Psalms 18:49). There were provisions for the salvation of some gentiles through Israel in prior and future dispensations but God had also foreordained the ministry of Christ to individual Gentiles through the truth for the Church in the Dispensation of Grace. The phrase "and the Gentiles on behalf of mercy to glorify God" basically means the same as Titus 3:5 which says that God "saved us by His mercy." So as a result of this, all God's elect (including Gentiles) were from eternity made "to glorify" Him, which means that they always had salvation in Christ even though it was not known (Romans 9:23-24).

II Timothy 2:15

15 Endeavor to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed worker, cutting straight the word of truth.

The correct interpretation of verse 15 brings out the meaning of its actual statement. The meaning of the main word is "endeavor," "diligent," "eager," and "hasten." This speaks of the strongest possible command to those of us who have been caused by God to endeavor. The next word "present," literally means "to stand beside," "place beside" or "to make available" to God. The following word "approved" identifies that which is certified after having been tested, tried and examined. This is known as the command of grace to be able to endeavor to be at God's disposal because He has caused us to be approved (Romans 16:10).

Hence, we are caused to be made available to God as "an unashamed worker." The word "unashamed" speaks of those caused to be "a laborer or worker," that has been approved by God for His use and are those who will not be put to shame. The most controversial word in the verse means "cutting straight," which is the literal meaning of the Word. This translation "cutting straight," is derived from two words of which the first means "straight, erect, upright, correct or right" and the second means "to cut or hew." These words combined literally mean to cut straight or to cut in a straight line. So the unashamed worker is involved in cutting straight the Word of Truth or saying what it really means. So this phrase means that when we study the Word of God, we must walk in a straight path and neither move to the right nor the left from what the true meaning is intended to say.

We need to speak the truths that are different in the Scriptures because they are important principles (Philippians 1:9-10) as to what is to be cut straight. This is what is meant by the phrase "the word of truth." In the Dispensation of Grace, the message (Mystery) is that the Body of Christ should the distinct truth, which was revealed to the Apostle Paul (Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 3:2-9; I Timothy 4:6,11,15; II Timothy 1:13-14; 2:2; 3:10,14). The phrase "the Word of Truth," is also stated in other epistles of Paul (II Corinthians 6:7; Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:5) and is in each context is obviously referring to the message revealed to him (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8) as the Gospel of the Grace of God (Acts 20:24). This Word of Truth is the message in the fourteen epistles of Paul that are to be prioritized and is the volume of truth that is to be cut straight or rightly divided as the messages for the Body of Christ. In this Church age, these messages must be understood, taught and followed exactly as they are written.

EXERCISE FROM DISCUSSION POINTS

Fill in the BLANKS and SCRIPTURE reference from the discussion above.

(HINT: *Answers 1-5 are highlighted above in blue and italicized to get you started*)

1 The phrase “for as much as was previously written” refers to what had been written before the Apostle Paul’s _____ (📖)

2. When God’s people in this present Church age read scriptures that were written _____ Paul’s message, they will serve to inspire us to have greater endurance, encouragement and be _____ in our hope. (📖)

3. The phrase “has been made,” speaks of the fact that God has made Christ as a _____ of the _____. (📖)

4. The _____ are called the “circumcision,” which means that they are Abraham’s natural seed and who the “_____” refers to (📖)

5. The phrase “the _____ of God” has reference to the _____ Testament truth of the prophesied Messianic _____ messages. (📖)

6. The main purpose of Jesus Christ’s _____ ministry was _____ to minister to the Body of Christ, the _____ but “to confirm the _____ of the _____.” (📖)

7 Christ was the minister fulfilling God’s promises of the _____ but even above that fact, God had predestined or _____ individuals with no distinction, which is the _____ of the original _____ that says, “I will confess you among the _____ and I will sing to your name.” (📖)

8. There were provisions for the salvation of _____ gentiles through Israel in prior and future _____ but God had also foreordained the ministry of Christ to individual Gentiles through the truth for the Church in the _____ of Grace. (📖)

9. The word, which means “_____,” “diligent,” “eager,” and “hasten” speaks of the strongest possible _____ to those of us who have been _____ by God to endeavor. (📖)

10. When we _____ the Word of God, we must hold to a _____ by neither moving to the right nor the left from its _____. (📖)

11. In the _____ of Grace, the message is that the Body of Christ is to concentrate on and _____ the distinct Mystery Truth, which was _____ to the Apostle Paul. (📖)

12. “cutting straight,” is the literal _____ of the translation, which is derived from two words of which the first means “_____, erect, upright, correct or right” and the second means “to _____ or hew.” These words combined literally mean to cut _____ or to cut in a straight line. So the unashamed worker is involved in cutting straight the Word of _____ or saying what it really means. So when we study the Word of God, we must walk in a _____ path and neither move to the right nor the left from what the true _____ is intended to say. (📖)

13. It is for our sakes that these scriptures are included in the Bible to show us “patience or _____” and “comfort or _____” so that we might have hope. (📖)

14. The primary purpose of Jesus Christ’s Earthly _____ was not to the _____ of _____, the Church but “to confirm the _____ of the _____.” (📖)

15. The promises that God made to _____ in Genesis 12:1-3, were a). He will be the father of a great _____, b). in him all the _____ of the Earth will be blessed and c). in the Earth, there will be a righteous _____. (📖)

16. The need to speak the truths that differ in the _____ is an important _____ as to what is to be cut straight. (📖)

17. The Word of Truth is the message in the fourteen epistles of _____ that are to be prioritized and is the _____ of truth that is to be cut straight or rightly divided as the messages for the _____ of Christ. In this Church age, these messages must be understood, _____ and followed exactly as they are written. (📖)

END OF LESSON ONE

Have questions about Lesson One, “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth”?

List them below, then post your questions on Community Forum Bulletin Board located at www.gracegospelministry.com Contact Us page. You may also click the link and email your questions to: BibleStudy@GraceGospleMinisty.com
