

## **KNOWING AND SHARING RIGHTLY DIVIDING**

- A. We have learned that if we truly interpret God's Word according to its context, only then can we understand what the authors were saying.
- B. We have learned that every promise, curse, command, warning, prophecy, or doctrine, must be handled and interpreted in light of its dispensational context.
  - 1. Example of this truth is found in how God gave to Moses and to Paul great positions of authority in their different dispensations.  
\*This was so their messages would not be confused with what had gone on before.
  - 2. This is why Paul himself defended his Apostleship so vigorously. Paul made sure he kept Grace separate from Law, and the Body Church from the Kingdom Church.  
Romans 3:24, 4:25 - "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."  
Romans 6:14 - "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."  
Colossians 2:14 - "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"
- C. God did this through Paul to make it so clear, so obvious, that there had been a dispensational change from Law to Grace!  
Galatians 3:23-26 - "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Gal 3:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."
- D. As we study, we see that God gave each dispensation new truth that was relevant to their historic setting: Innocence → Conscience → Government → Promise → Law → Grace.  
\*God raised up men that would lead and proclaim distinctive dispensational truth for their particular time: Adam → Noah → Abraham → Moses → Peter → Paul.
- E. So we have to ask ourselves, will we recognize these very evident different dispensations and interpret Scripture accordingly within their contexts? Or will we continue to mix dispensations all together and come up with a hodgepodge of beliefs?
  - 1. Are your beliefs determined by your denomination, your tradition, or by scripturally rightly dividing?
  - 2. Paul prayed:  
Ephesians 1:16-18 - "Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; Eph 1:17 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: Eph 1:18 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,"

Colossians 1:9-10, 26-27 - "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Col 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"

- F. Too many believers are satisfied with the simple things and hardly ever trouble themselves to find out just what God has said!
1. Their faith then becomes not based upon facts, but based upon feelings and what they wish the Word said.
  2. Example: A young lady determined her missionary call from reading Matthew 10:5-6 - "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: Mat 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."  
\*She said she realized immediately she was to be a **Jewish** missionary. But notice these same verses prohibited her to witness to Gentiles! \*No doubt she was a godly girl that God would bless, but she still used verses for someone **else**.
  3. Remember the Ethiopian sat trying to figure out Isaiah 53. The Lord sent Philip to explain the passage to him.
- Acts 8:30 - "And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?"
- Dr. Stam: "This is teaching: To really believe what God has said you must first understand what He has said! If you don't understand what the passage says, how can we **possibly** believe it? You can believe a verse to be God's Word without understanding it, but you cannot believe the verse if you do not understand what it says."
- G. God is not satisfied that we believe the Bible is His Word only. Faith can only come after an **intelligent** understanding of what God has said!
1. To understand what God has said, we have to follow basic rightly dividing of dispensations' principles. We will find passages in Scripture that are incompatible and contradictory to one another. Which one is right? Why?
  2. Example: Solomon says in Proverbs 6:6-8 - "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Pro 6:7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Pro 6:8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."
- Jesus says in Luke 12:22, 24, 33 - "And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. Luk 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth."

Consider the ravens, they do not lay up in store, but God takes care of them!

\*Do we see the contradiction of these Scriptures? One thing is certain, we do not practice **both** programs at the same time.

- H. A problem many have is they have held onto certain promises and they have become attached. To tell them their verse doesn't mean what they think it means would seem sacrilege or like they are being robbed.

Dr. Stam: "But always remember, true faith is founded on God's revelation, not on man's imagination. We must not tell God what to say in His Word!"

\*The true obedient believer should have a sense of confidence and joy because they now know the mind of God - they understand what God has said.

Nehemiah 8:12 - "And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them."

- I. Following are some test cases for us to ponder and practice on:

1. Genesis 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."

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

2. Leviticus 11:2, 4, 47 - "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that *are* on the earth. Lev 11:4 Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: *as* the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. Lev 11:47 To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten."

I Timothy 4:4 - "For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"

SHARING TO SHOW A DIFFERENCE:

WHICH ONE DO WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW?	
<u>Old Testament, Gospels, Early Acts</u>	<u>Paul's Epistles</u>
(1) <u>II Chronicles 7:14</u> - "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and <u>will heal their land.</u> "	<u>Colossians 3:1-2</u> - "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are <u>above</u> , where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <u>Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.</u> "
(2) <u>Matthew 18:19-20</u> - "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. <u>Mat 18:20</u> For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."	<u>I Corinthians 3:16</u> - "Know ye not that <u>ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?</u> "
<u>Deuteronomy 17:6</u> - "At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; <i>but</i> at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death."	<u>I Corinthians 6:19</u> - "What? know ye not that <u>your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you</u> , which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"
(3) <u>Matthew 21:22</u> - "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."	<u>Philippians 4:6-7</u> - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving <u>let your requests be made known unto God</u> . <u>Phil 4:7 And the peace of God</u> , which passeth all understanding, <u>shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.</u> "
<u>Mark 11:24</u> - "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive <u>them</u> , and ye shall have <u>them</u> ."	<u>I Corinthians 4:11</u> - "Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;"
(4) <u>Matthew 24:13</u> - "But he that shall <u>endure</u> unto the end, the same shall be saved"	<u>Philippians 1:6</u> - "Being confident of this very thing, that <u>he which hath begun</u> a good work in you <u>will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ</u> :"

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<p>(5) <u>Isaiah 9:6-7</u> - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and <u>the government shall be upon his shoulder</u>; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. <u>Isa 9:7</u> Of the <u>increase of his government</u> and peace <u>there shall be no end</u>, upon the throne of David, and upon <u>his kingdom</u>, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth <u>even for ever</u>. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."</p> <p><u>Matthew 6:10</u> - "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."</p>	<p><u>II Corinthians 5:1</u> - "For we know that if our earthly house of <u>this tabernacle</u> were dissolved, <u>we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.</u>"</p> <p><u>Ephesians 2:6</u> - "And hath raised <u>us</u> up together, and <u>made us sit together in heavenly places</u> in Christ Jesus:"</p> <p><u>Colossians 1:5</u> - "For the hope which is laid up for you <u>in heaven</u>, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;"</p> <p><u>Philippians 3:20</u> - "For our conversation <u>is in heaven</u>; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"</p>
<p>(6) <u>Matthew 6:14-15</u> - "For <u>if</u> ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <u>Mat 6:15</u> <u>But if ye forgive not</u> men their trespasses, <u>neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.</u>"</p>	<p><u>Ephesians 4:32</u> - "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even <u>as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.</u>"</p>
<p>(7) <u>Mark 16:15-16</u> - "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <u>Mar 16:16</u> <u>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;</u> but he that believeth not shall be damned."</p> <p><u>Acts 2:38</u> - "Then Peter said unto them, <u>Repent, and be baptized</u> every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ <u>for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.</u>"</p>	<p><u>I Corinthians 1:17</u> - "For Christ sent me not to <u>baptize</u>, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."</p> <p><u>Ephesians 4:5</u> - "One Lord, one faith, <u>one baptism,</u>"</p> <p><u>I Corinthians 12:13</u> - "<u>For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,</u> whether <u>we be</u> Jews or Gentiles, whether <u>we be</u> bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."</p>
<p>(8) <u>Matthew 10:5-7</u> - "<u>These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them,</u> saying, <u>Go not into the way of the Gentiles,</u> and into <u>any city</u> of the <u>Samaritans</u> enter ye not: <u>Mat 10:6</u> <u>But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.</u> <u>Mat 10:7</u> And as ye go, preach, saying, The <u>kingdom</u> of heaven is at hand.</p>	<p><u>Romans 1:16</u> - "For I am not ashamed of the <u>gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;</u> to the <u>Jew</u> first, and also to the <u>Greek.</u>"</p> <p><u>Romans 10:13</u> - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."</p> <p><u>Galatians 3:28</u> - "<u>There is neither Jew nor Greek,</u> there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: <u>for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."</u></p>

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(9) <u>Matthew 12:31-32</u> - "Wherefore I say unto you, <u>All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.</u> <u>Mat 12:32</u> And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: <u>but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him,</u> neither <u>in this world</u> , neither <u>in the world to come.</u> "	<u>Romans 5:20</u> - "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. <u>But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:</u> "  <u>Romans 11:32</u> - "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon <u>all</u> ."
(10) <u>Luke 23:43</u> - "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, <u>Today</u> shalt thou be with me in <u>paradise</u> ."	<u>Ephesians 4:8-9</u> - "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. <u>Eph 4:9</u> (Now that he ascended, <u>what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?</u> )"  <u>II Corinthians 12:2, 4</u> - "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) <u>such an one caught up to the third heaven.</u> <u>2Co 12:4</u> <u>How that he was caught up into paradise</u> , and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."
(11) <u>Matthew 4:17</u> - "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the <u>kingdom of heaven</u> is at hand."  <u>Matthew 10:7</u> - "And as ye go, preach, saying, <u>The kingdom of heaven is at hand.</u> "	<u>Acts 20:24</u> - "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and <u>the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.</u> "  <u>Romans 15:8</u> - "Now I say that <u>Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision</u> for the truth of God, <u>to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:</u> "  <u>II Corinthians 5:15-16</u> - "And <u>that</u> he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. <u>2Co 5:16</u> Wherefore <u>henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.</u> "

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(12) <u>Acts 3:21</u> - "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets <u>since the world began</u> ."	<u>Romans 16:25</u> - "Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept <u>secret since the world began</u> "
(13) <u>Acts 2:44-45</u> - "And all that believed were together, and <u>had all things common</u> ; <u>Act 2:45</u> And <u>sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.</u> "  <u>Acts 4:34</u> - "Neither was there any among them that lacked: <u>for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,</u> "  <u>Matthew 10:9</u> - "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,"	<u>I Timothy 5:8</u> - "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."  <u>II Thessalonians 3:10</u> - "For even when we were with you, <u>this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.</u> "
(14) <u>Mark 16:17-18</u> - "And <u>these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;</u> <u>Mark 16:18</u> They shall <u>take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.</u> "	<u>I Corinthians 13:8-10</u> - "Charity never faileth: but whether <u>there be prophecies, they shall fail;</u> whether <u>there be tongues, they shall cease;</u> whether <u>there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.</u> <u>1Co 13:9</u> <u>For we know in part,</u> and we prophesy in part. <u>1Co 13:10</u> <u>But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.</u> "  <u>Philippians 2:26-27</u> - "For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, <u>because that ye had heard that he had been sick.</u> <u>Phil 2:27</u> <u>For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him;</u> and not on him only, <u>but on me also,</u> lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow."  <u>II Timothy 4:20</u> - "Erastus abode at Corinth: <u>but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.</u> "

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<p>(15) <u>Matthew 25:31-34</u> - "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: <u>Mat 25:32</u> And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his <u>sheep</u> from the <u>goats</u>: <u>Mat 25:33</u> And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. <u>Mat 25:34</u> Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, <u>inherit the kingdom</u> prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"</p>		<p><u>Philippians 3:20</u> - "For our conversation is in <u>heaven</u>; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"</p> <p><u>I Thessalonians 1:10</u> - "And to wait for his <u>Son from heaven</u>, whom he raised from the dead, even <u>Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come</u>."</p> <p><u>I Thessalonians 5:9</u> - "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"</p>	
<p>(16) <u>I Peter 1:13</u> - "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at <u>the revelation of Jesus Christ</u>;"</p>		<p><u>I Thessalonians 4:15-17</u> - "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive <i>and</i> remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. <u>1Th 4:16</u> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: <u>and the dead in Christ shall rise first</u>: <u>1Th 4:17</u> <u>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them</u> in the clouds, <u>to meet the Lord in the air</u>: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."</p>	
Israel:	<b>Earth</b>	Body:	<b>Heaven</b>

J. Conclusion: While all of the Scripture is for us, it's certainly not all written to us or **about** us.

1. Does this mean we cannot claim the promises outside Pauline Epistles? **No**, but it means we should not randomly claim **any** promise that appeals to us.
2. There are some promises that have to do with mankind in general. Also, even promises to others teach us facts about God's character that should cause us to trust Him in similar circumstances.
3. But when a promise to someone else is in direct contradiction to the Pauline message and program, then that promise is **not** to be used by us.

Dr. Stam: "We must rightly divide God's Word simply because it's the truth and wrongly dividing it could change it into a lie! Example: Mark 16:17 [these signs shall follow them that believe]. This is true when left in its context to the 12 who were sent forth to proclaim the Kingdom message of Christ."

- a. \*But if you claim it for the Body Church today, you will make the Bible tell a lie, for these signs do not follow those that believe today. This leads multitudes to doubt and even despair because they are looking for these signs and it does not happen!
  - b. Their faith is shaken when all the while they are claiming promises not made to them at all!
4. A good rule is to always try to interpret a passage first within its context and dispensational setting. Only after that can we apply its truth to our lives. If you apply it first, you are likely to misinterpret.