

BIBLE MATHEMATICS (II Timothy 2:15)

The bible is full of references to numbers. We have number 7 the number of completion. We have 666 the number of the Anti-Christ. There is 6 the number of man. There are chapter numbers, verse numbers and verses that tell us not to add or subtract. But there is one verse that tells us to divide the bible and that verse also tells us how we can be approved of God and also tells us that there are bible verses that need to be divided. What does it mean to “rightly divide the word of truth?”

We have all been taught in school that in order to know how to understand something that is written or said it is important to find out the “who, what, where, and when”, or the context of what we are trying to understand. The bible is to be understood the same way. For instance:

Rightly dividing people - All authors of the bible do one thing the same way all the time: They are either addressing one of three groups of people, The Jews, The church (believers), or Gentiles.

The Jews were promised a kingdom on earth – **The Christian** is promised New Jerusalem. **The Jews** are still looking for a King – **The Christian** is looking for a Bridegroom. **The Jews** were given signs and wonders – **The Christian** walks by faith. **The Jews** look for another temple – **The Christian** is the temple of God. **The Jews** celebrate Passover as a feast – **For Christians** Christ is our Passover.

Rightly dividing doctrine and promises – **II Chronicles 7:14** We hear this verse quoted often within the context of the church today. This verse does not apply to the church or to America, it belongs to the nation of Israel. The context is the dedication of Solomon's temple and God is speaking directly to him about the Jews and is a promise that is very conditional.

Philippians 4:19 As we have discussed, this verse is quoted by all believers but is only promised to this specific church because of their missionary giving to Paul for his ministry **-(verses 15-19)**.

Rightly dividing the Gospel – **Matthew 3:1-8; 24:13-14** There are people today in other denominations that use these verses to conclude that salvation is through works and can be lost.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 The Apostle to the Gentiles gives the plain and simple gospel of grace.

Rightly dividing dispensations – **Ephesians 3:1-6** Without utilizing the breakdown of different periods of time that God deals with people the bible would not be understood correctly by anyone.

Rightly dividing the Advent of Christ – **Luke 2:10-11** His life on earth, His first advent. **I Thessalonians 4:16-17** The Rapture is the first part of His second Advent, **Matthew 24:29-31** His return physically to the earth to rule during His millennial Kingdom.

Rightly dividing 5 bible judgments – **II Corinthians 5:21** Christ's judgment for our sins. **I Corinthians 11:31-32** Believers judgment of self. **Romans 14:10** Christian judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **Matthew 25:31** Judgment of the nations after Tribulation. **Revelation 20:12** The Great White Throne judgment of all the lost souls from the beginning of time.

Rightly dividing between Law and Grace – **Exodus 19:5-6** The Law is a performance based system whereby God will bless *if* His people obey His commandments. **Romans 3:24** The grace of God is *freely* given to those who accept Christ's sacrifice for our sins, no ifs, ands, or buts.

Rightly dividing Christian standing vs. Christian state – **Romans 5:1-2** The Christian standing with God through the work of Jesus Christ is forever settled. Once at war we are now at peace. **I Corinthians 9:27; Phil. 2:12** The state of the believer changes because the flesh is detestable and needs to be brought under control moment by moment by allowing the Spirit to rule our body.

Rightly dividing Salvation and Rewards – **Ephesians 2:8-9** Salvation is a free gift that cannot be earned, is undeserved, and cannot be worked for. **Colossians 3:22-24; Luke 19:16-17** Eternal rewards given at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be earned and are deserved because of faithful service as a believer during our earthly Christian life.