

The Dispensational Principle

Rightly Dividing The Word of God

II. Timothy 2:15

Intro.

1. Object of this study is to help us rightly divide the Scriptures. Word of God. By applying some of these principles when we study this will help maximize our studying.
2. In II Timothy 2:15 our text goes on to give us the reasons why we should study:
 1. It is a command
 2. To show ourselves approved unto God
 3. Because we are workmen
 4. That we need not be ashamed.
3. Learning to study properly will help us:
 1. Build good, sound fundamental doctrine.
 2. Increase our faith.
 3. Root and ground us in the Word of God.
4. In this text we have also been told to shun profane and vain babblings - because that increases ungodliness an example is given of two men that did not rightly divide the Word of God.
5. The principles we have learned so far about rightly dividing the Word of God so far are: Different forms of study that we have looked at so far:
 1. Expository
 2. Textual
 3. Topical
 4. We have also looked at the First Mention Principle.
 5. Then we looked at the Full Mention Principle
 6. Last week dealt with the Christo-centric principle. This is just a fancy way of saying Christ centered.
 7. This week we want to deal with the Dispensational Principle.
1. Defined - What is a dispensation?
 1. A dispensation is a period of time during which God deals in a particular way with man.
 2. Dispensation means administration.
 3. LET'S BE CLEAR - Salvation has NEVER been apart from the blood. Man is born into sin, death by sin salvation is only in Jesus Christ. Period end of discussion.
 4. In Hebrews 1:1-2 The Word of God sets it forth in this manner - God's procedure of communication:

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

1. (1) From the creation of man to the call of Moses at the burning bush, God spoke directly to individual man, without any human instrumentality or agency. Adam, Abel, Cain, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all had direct

communication with God.

2. (2) From the call of Moses to the First Advent of Christ, God spoke by human agencies, namely, "unto the fathers by the prophets".
 3. (3) From His birth to His ascension in glory, God spoke directly through His Son.
 4. (4) Since the Ascension of Jesus, God has spoken directly through His Son by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-14). Peter, James, John, Jude, and lastly Paul received the messages and wrote them down.
 5. Let's look at a few of them together to get an idea of what a dispensation is.
2. Please note some list 7 - some list 10 (we will deal with the list of 7)
 1. Dispensation of Innocence
 2. Dispensation of Conscience "with knowledge"
 3. Dispensation of Human Government
 4. Dispensation of Promise
 5. Dispensation of the Law
 6. Dispensation of Grace
 7. Dispensation of Judgement and Tribulation
 8. Dispensation of the Kingdom
 3. Dispensation of Innocence Genesis 1:26-2:23
 1. Characteristics:
 1. Here they neither knew good or evil, being neither holy or sinful - but free to choose when good and evil were placed before them.
 2. Man had a responsibility to believe God's Word or the statements of Satan.
 3. Failure of man
 1. Man chose to believe Satan over
 4. Therefore consequences - Genesis 3:14-19
 1. Judgement of Satan

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

2. Judgement of the woman

1. **Gen 3:16** Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

3. Judgement on the man

1. **Gen 3:17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; **Gen 3:18** Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

4. Judgement of the earth

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for

out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

5. Promise of the seed to deliver

1. Verse 15

5. Moral condition - one of perfection until sin came in

6. Divine mercy - Genesis 3:15 Promise of victory

4. The Dispensation of Conscience with Knowledge

1. After the fall of man Now they had conscience with knowledge

4. This period covers from the fall of man to the flood @ 1656