

The Christo- Centric 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 us gives 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:
6. Expository
 1. Line upon line, precept upon precept and verse by verse like our study through Joshua and Daniel, Wednesday night Bible study our Pastor is in the middle of in Genesis.
 2. This by far is the most impactful type of study.
 3. We compared it to a house being built and being able to view that entire house inside and out in one setting.
7. Textual
 1. Our current study is a type of this study.
 1. Taking a passage of Scripture and expounding on this text using other passages of Scriptures to shed light on

what truth or truths are being taught there.

2. We compare it to a puzzle. We see it more clearly as we bring the other pieces into focus.

8. Topical

1. This is they the of a study that we do on a individual subject such as the study we did on Joy a few weeks ago.
2. Was our lessons:
 1. On Joy
 2. On the exceeding great and precious promises found in the Word of God
3. We compare it to a 3D lego set. We take a topic and learn more about that topic as we search the Scriptures for that same word and how it is used in different passages of Scripture.

9. We have also looked at the First Mention Principle. (Our Pastor mentions this principle often)

1. Using the first mention principle we take the first time a subject is mentioned or used in the Word of God, the God gives us truth which helps us to better understand this truth through the Word of God.
2. Many of these truths are found in the book of Genesis.
3. We looked at the subtilty of Satan first found in Genesis 3:1.
4. We looked at the keynote of Christ's ministry first found in the words he spoke at age 12 in Luke 2:49, Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

10. Last week we look at the Full Mention Principle

1. By definition - that principle by which God declares His full mind (that He would have us to know) upon any subject vital to our spiritual life.
2. Examples: (Note there are more passages - these are the ones we are most familiar with)

1. I Corinthians 15 - The Resurrection

2. James 3 - The Tongue
3. Hebrews 11 - Trials and Triumphs of faith
4. The Church - Ephesians 1-3
5. The suit of armor - Ephesians 6:10-17
6. Spiritual gifts - I. Corinthians 12-14
7. Last things of this life - Matthew 24
8. The Law - Exodus 20
9. Righteousness by faith - Romans 3:10-21
10. The final judgement - Revelation 20.

3. Last week we dealt with I. Corinthians 13 and how all inclusive that chapter is on the subject of true, pure love. A true love that only Christ can give but an example that we should follow.

This week we want to deal with the Christo-centric principle. This is just a fancy way of saying Christ centered.

1. Christ o centric Principle

1. By definition:

1. The mind of God is centered around Jesus Christ.
 1. **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;

Heb 1:3 **Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**

Heb 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

2. All the angels thoughts and ministry are centered around Jesus Christ
 1. **Heb 1:6** And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let

all the angels of God worship him.

Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

3. All of satan's hatred is centered around Jesus Christ
 1. From Genesis 3:15 all the way through the Word of God we see many examples of this.
 - 2.
4. All human hopes, and human occupations should be centered around Jesus Christ.
 1. Occupations - **1Co 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.
 2. Hopes - **Act 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
5. The whole material universe is centered around Jesus Christ
 1. **Col 1:16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

- 2.
6. The entire written Word of God is centered around Jesus Christ.
7. **Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.....jump down to verse 14: **Joh 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth

2. The main theme of the Bible is CHRIST. Martin Luther once asked: "What Book and what Person". The answer was simply: "The Bible and Christ".
3. There are two words that are inseparable - The Written Word and The Incarnate Word. Here are some examples of how we find Jesus Christ in the Word of God:
 1. GENESIS -
 1. In Gen. 1:1 we have the creation of the heavens and the earth, and Christ is the Creator (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16).
 2. In the first Adam we see the Last Adam; in the first man we see the Second Man (1 Cor. 15:45,47).
 3. Gen. 3:15 speaks of "the seed of the woman". Christ is the "Seed of the woman"
 4. Through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and finally Mary (Matt. 1:1-16). Christ is the Prophet of Eden, who declares His own incarnation as "the Seed of the Woman".
 5. In Abraham, the stranger coming from a far country and living a life of faith and having nothing but a grave in Canaan, we see Christ, Who came from a far Country, lived a life of faith, and finally had nothing but a cross and a borrowed grave.
 6. In Isaac we see Christ the true Seed of Abraham (Rom. 9:7; Gal. 3:16).
 1. In the miraculous conception (Gen. 18:14; Luke 1:35);
 2. In the pre-natal naming (Gen. 17:19; Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31); In

3. the projected death of the one we see the foreshadowing of Christ some 2,000 years before, and on the same mountain of Moriah (Gen.22:2; 1 Chron. 21:28; 22:1; 2 Chron. 3:1).
 4. In the wood laid upon Isaac, we see Christ bearing His cross (Gen. 22:6; Jn. 19:17).
 7. In Jacob's ladder we see Him who is the "true and living way" - the One who forever bridged the gulf between Heaven and earth (Gen. 28:12; John 14:6). There are many more in the book of Genesis. Let's look at Exodus
2. EXODUS - In Genesis we saw Christ in the sufferings and glory of Joseph
 1. Here we see Him in the sufferings and glory of Moses (Ex. 2:14; Acts 7:35). Joseph's sufferings began when his brethren said: "Shalt thou indeed reign over us?" Moses sufferings began when two of his brethren said: "Who made thee a prince and judge over us? (Ex. 2:14). So it was with the Lord (Luke 19:14).
 2. God said to Moses: "I am come down to deliver, ... and I will redeem" (3:8; 6:6). So Christ is the One who came down to deliver and to redeem (Eph. 1:7).
 3. God said to Moses: "I am that I am" (3:14). Christ is the great "I am". "I am the Bread of Life" (Jn. 6:35);
 4. He is the living water (Jn. 7:37-38);
 5. He is the smitten rock of Exodus (17:6; Isa. 53:4); "I am the Good Shepherd" (Jn. 10:11); there are more lets look at Leviticus.
 3. LEVITICUS -
 1. Here Christ is seen in the various offerings: the Burnt Offering, the Meat Offering, the Peace Offering, the Sin Offering, and the Trespass

- Offering (Phil. 2:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24; Ps. 51:4).
2. He is the High Priest on the great Day of Atonement (Heb. 9:11-12);
 3. He is the bird slain and the bird set free, in His death and resurrection.
4. In NUMBERS -
1. Here Christ is the brazen serpent (21:9; Jn. 3:14-15); T
 2. The Rock (20:11; 1 Cor. 10:4);
 3. The Manna (11:7-9; Jn. 6:57-58); The future Star that arose out of Jacob (24:17; Luke 1:78; 2 Pet. 1:19).
5. DEUTERONOMY -
1. He is the Prophet like unto Moses (18:15; Acts 7:37-38).
 2. He is the Rock and Refuge of his people (32:4; 33:27; 1 Cor. 10:4).
6. JOSHUA -
1. He is the Captain of the Lord's host (5:13-15; Heb. 2:10; 12:2).
 2. He is the salvation in Rahab's scarlet thread (2:12-20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
7. JUDGES -
1. Christ is seen as the "Angel of the Lord" the covenant angel whose name is called: "Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Judg. 6:12; 13:18; Isa. 9:6).
8. RUTH - Christ is seen in the kinsman redeemer; the true Boaz (Ruth 2:1; 3:2,13; 4:4).
9. I. & II. SAMUEL -
1. Christ is seen in the sufferings and rejection of David, who became a savior and captain for his followers (1 Sam 22:1-2; Rev. 22:16).
10. I. & II. KINGS - Here we see the glory that should

- follow; and the greater than Solomon (Matt. 12:42) and the greater than the temple (Matt. 12:6).
11. I. & II. CHRONICLES – Here he is the king’s son rescued from among the dead, hidden in the House of God to be manifested in due time, as Jehovah had said (2 Chron. 22:10 – 23:3).
 12. EZRA – Here He is “a nail in his holy place (9:8), which according to Isa. 22:20-25 is used of Eliakim, who typifies Christ.
 13. NEHEMIAH – Here He is the Bread from Heaven, and Water out of the rock (9:15-20; Jn. 6:57-58; 1 Cor. 10:4).
 14. ESTHER – Here he is the Seed preserved. His name is there though concealed. He is the Great Deliverer, higher than the Law of the Medes and the Persians.
 15. JOB – Here He is the “Daysman” or Mediator (9:33); and as the Redeemer coming again to the earth (19:25-27).
 16. PSALMS
 1. In Psalm 1 He is the Blessed Man.
 2. In Psalm 2 He is the Son of God.
 3. In Psalm 8 He is the “Son of Man”.
 4. In Psalm 16 He is the Risen Man.
 5. In Psalm 22 He is the Good Shepherd, humiliated, suffering and dying.
 6. In Psalm 23 He is the Great Shepherd.
 7. In Psalm 24 He is the Chief Shepherd, the King of Glory.
 8. In Psalm 45 He is the Prophet with grace-filled lips. In
 9. Psalm 51 He is the Savior.
 10. In Psalm 72 He is the Priest after the order of Melchizedek.
 11. In Psalm 150 He is the One who leads everything that hath breath in praising God.
 17. PROVERBS –

1. He is the Wisdom of God (Ch. 8; 1 Cor. 1:24);
 2. The Path and Light of his people (4:18);
 3. The Surety for His people while strangers (11:15; Rom. 5:8-10);
 4. The Strong Tower into which the righteous run and are safe (18:10);
 5. The Friend and the Brother (17:17).
18. ECCLESIASTES -
1. He is the One among ten thousand in the midst of all vanity and vexation of spirit (7:28).
19. SONG OF SONGS - Here he is the Shepherd, Lover, Bridegroom, Rose of Sharon and Lily of the Valley. "He is my Beloved" (2:16).
20. ISAIAH - Here we have his suffering and glory (Ch. 53); His people's Light (60:1-2; Matt. 4:16); The Mighty God (9:6); Matt. 28:18); Salvation's well (12:3).
21. JEREMIAH - Here he is the Righteous Branch and "Jehovah our righteousness" (23:5- 6).
22. LAMENTATIONS - Here He is the Man of Sorrows (1:12-13); and great in faithfulness (3:23).
23. EZEKIEL - Here he is the True Shepherd (34:23); The Prince (37:25) and The Plant of Renown (34:29).
24. DANIEL - Here He is the Stone become the Head (2:34; Matt. 21:42,44; 1 Pet. 2:4,6); The Son of man and Messiah the Prince (8:13,16; 9:24).
25. HOSEA - Here he is the true David (3:5); and the Son out of Egypt (11:1).
26. JOEL - Here he is the Lord of bounty (2:18-19); and he is God dwelling in Zion (3:17).
27. AMOS - He is the Great Shepherd of Israel (3:12); and The Raiser of David's Tabernacle (9:11; Acts 15:16-17).
28. OBADIAH - He is the Deliverer on Mt. Zion (17).
29. JONAH - He is Jonah's salvation (2:9); and the sign of Christ's resurrection (Matt. 12:39-41).

30. MICAH – Here He is the Breaker, King, and Lord (2:13); the “Ruler in Israel” coming forth from Bethlehem (5:2).
 31. NAHUM – Here He is a “strong hold in the day of trouble” (1:7).
 32. HABAKKUK- He is the source of faith (2:4); and the God of salvation under all circumstances (3:17-18).
 33. ZEPHANIAH – He is the Lord of judgment (3:5); the God of cleansing (3:15); and the Mighty God in the midst of Zion (3:17).
 34. HAGGAI – He is the “desire of all nations” (2:7); and The Lord of Hosts, the Judge (2:11-17).
 35. ZECHARIAH – Here he is “my Servant the Branch” (3:8); “my Shepherd”, “my Fellow”, “the Man” (13:7); and “King over all the earth” (14:9); and “the man whose name is the branch” (6:12).
 36. MALACHI – Here he is the “Messenger of the Covenant” (3:1); He is “a refiner’s fire” and “fuller’s soap” for the sons of Levi (3:2-3); the “Sun of righteousness” (4:2).
4. If this is true of the O.T. how much more of the N.T.
1. MATTHEW – Here he is the “righteous Branch and a King” (Jer. 23:5) The Sovereign. MARK – Here He is “my Servant the Branch” (Zech. 3:8). The Servant.
 2. LUKE – Here he is “the Man whose name is the Branch” (Zech. 6:12). The Seed. JOHN – Here he is “the Branch of the Lord” (Isa. 4:2). The Son.
 3. Names in Hebrew have a distinct meaning:
 1. Adam – Man of the earth.
 2. Seth – Set or appointed.
 3. Enos – Mortal.
 4. Cainan – Mourner or weeper.
 5. Mahalaleel – Blessed of God.
 6. Jared – The thought of one descending.
 7. Enoch – Dedicated or consecrated.
 8. Methuselah – When he is dead it shall be sent.

9. Lamech - To the miserable.
 10. Noah - Comfort or rest.
5. In Christ we have the living embodiment of the Bible.

6. MORE NOTES:

1. Genesis chapter five is considered a very dull, uninteresting chapter. Yet it reveals the wonders of the Word. It has been called "The Epitaph Chapter". In this chapter we have the constant refrain: "He lived, begat, died".
2. But there is more here. One can see the Gospel on the meaning of these names. As long as Methuselah lived the Flood was not sent. The oldest man in this world held back the flood; for in the very year he died it came. Man is appointed mortal for "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27). There is mourning and sorrow because of sin. The blessed Lord came down from Heaven dedicated and consecrated. Through His death shall come to the miserable, rest. "His rest shall be glorious" (Isa. 11:10). Only Christ can give true rest (Matt. 11:28-29).
3. The Living Word and the Written Word cannot be separated. The written word is given to manifest the Living or Incarnate Word. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of them both for He uses the written word to interpret the Incarnate Word (John 16:13-14). Any preaching which does not magnify Christ is not preaching the Word. So we have the Word in three manifestations: The Incarnate Word; The written word; and the preached word.
4. "The Scriptures and the Word Bear one tremendous name, The Living and the Written Word
5. In all things are the same." - Joseph Hart
6. SIMILAR PREDICATES OF THE LIVING AND WRITTEN WORD
 1. "His name is called the Word of God" (Rev. 19:13).

2. They “pressed upon Him to hear the Word of God” (Luke 5:1).
3. The Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6).
4. The Gospel of peace (Rom. 10:15).
5. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way (John 14:6).
6. “Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes” (Ps. 119:33).
7. “Full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14).
8. “All thy commandments are truth” (Ps. 119:151).
9. “A bone of Him shall not be broken” (Jn. 19:36).
10. “The Scriptures cannot be broken” (Jn. 10:35).
11. “I am the Living Bread ... If any man eat of this bread he shall live forever” (Jn. 6:51). “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4).
12. “With Thee is a fountain of life” (Ps. 36:9). “Thy law ... is a fountain of life” (Prov. 13:14).
13. “I am the light of the world” (Jn. 8:12).
14. “Thy word is a light unto my path” (Ps. 119:105).
15. “Thou art my lamp, O Lord” (2 Sam. 22:29). “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet” (Ps. 119:105).
16. “I ... will be unto her a wall of fire” (Zech. 2:5). “Is not my word like as a fire” (Jer. 23:29)?
17. “To you who believe He is precious” (1 Pet. 2:7). “Exceeding great and precious promises” (2 Pet. 1:4).
18. “His mouth is most sweet” (Song of Songs 5:16).
19. “How sweet are thy words unto my taste” (Ps. 119:103).
20. “His name shall be called wonderful” (Isa. 9:6). “Thy testimonies are wonderful” (Ps. 119:129).
21. “Christ, the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:24).
22. “The Gospel is the power of God” (Rom. 1:16).
23. “Him that is from the beginning” (1 Jn. 2:13).
24. “Thy word is true from the beginning” (Ps. 119:160).

25. "From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God" (Ps. 90:2). "Thy testimonies are everlasting" (Ps. 119:144).
 26. "The Lord shall endure forever" (Ps. 9:7).
 27. "The word of the Lord endureth forever" (1 Pet. 1:25).
 28. "Christ abideth forever" (Jn. 12:34).
 29. "The word of God abideth forever" (1 Pet. 1:23).
 30. Christ, "a stumbling Stone" (Rom. 9:33). "They stumble at thy word" (1 Pet. 2:8).
 31. "Abide in me and I in you" (Jn. 15:4). "If my words abide in you" (Jn. 15:7).
 32. "Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Eph. 3:17). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16).
 33. "Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword" (Rev. 1:16).
 34. "For the word of God is ... sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12).
 35. "Sanctified in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:2).
"Sanctified through the truth" (Jn. 17:19).
 36. "The Son therefore shall make you free" (Jn. 8:36). "The truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32).
7. Similar attributes to Jesus Christ and the Word of God
1. "Born of God" (1 Jn. 5:18).
 2. "Born ... by the word" (1 Pet. 1:23).
 3. "Begotten by Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:3). "Begotten through the gospel" (1 Cor. 4:15).
 4. "The Son quickeneth whom He will" (Jn. 5:21).
"Thy word hath quickened me" (Ps. 119:50).
 5. Christ "healed them" (Matt. 4:24).
 6. "He sent His word and healed them" (Ps. 107:20).
 7. Through this we know and believe that the Living Word and the Written Word cannot be separated.