

We are not to be ashamed

2 Tim 2:10-15 (KJV)

- 10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
- 11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:
- 12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:
- 13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
- 14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.
- 15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Handling the Word of God Accurately

Here is an example of Moses given instructions on how to provide water to the nation of Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. In the Exodus passage ***he follows instructions and handles the word accurately:***

Exod 17:1-7 (KJV)

- 1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.
- 2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?
- 3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?
- 4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.
- 5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.
- 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- 7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

Now, the next instance where Moses was given instructions on how to fetch water out of a rock, ***the instructions had changed.*** He was now to fetch water differently but does not follow the rules:

Num 20:1-12 (KJV)

- 1 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.
- 2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.
- 3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!
- 4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

- 5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.
- 6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.
- 7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- 8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.
- 9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.
- 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?
- 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.
- 12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Moses then suffers the consequence for not handling the word of God accurately and is told he will not lead the nation into the promised land.

The next example of following instructions accurately involves the nation of Israel when they were preparing to enter into the promised land. In this case the instructions were to enter in the land and not worry about the inhabitants for God would protect them. Joshua and Caleb were two of twelve scouts who wanted to obey but the popular democratic choice was to avoid the land filled with giants. Hence, what is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right.

Num 13:25-14:45 (KJV)

- 25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.
- 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.
- 27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.
- 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.
- 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.
- 30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
- 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.
- 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.
- 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

CHAPTER 14

- 1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

- 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!
- 3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?
- 4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.
- 5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.
- 6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:
- 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.
- 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.
- 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.
- 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.
- 11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?
- 12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.
- 13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)
- 14 And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.
- 15 Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,
- 16 Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.
- 17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,
- 18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.
- 19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.
- 20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:
- 21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.
- 22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;
- 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:
- 24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.
- 25 (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.
- 26 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
- 27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.
- 28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

- 29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,
- 30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.
- 31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.
- 32 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.
- 33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.
- 34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.
- 35 I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.
- 36 And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,
- 37 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.
- 38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.
- 39 And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.

Now that the consequences for not following God's instructions had been given to them... they were ready to do what God said. The sentence was to die in the wilderness. Notice how the group's desire to obey what God said came only after they found out the consequences. Even when they followed God's instructions the next day it was the right action at the wrong time. God's message had changed just the day before so now entering into the land was the correct behavior but at the wrong time.

- 40 And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.
- 41 And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper.
- 42 Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.
- 43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.
- 44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.
- 45 Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.

Today we are governed under pure grace... however the consequences for misinterpreting God's word can still be catastrophic to our walk. The student of God must search the scriptures rightly divided to find the truth for today lest we try fall into doing what used to be right but at the wrong time.

2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Right thing Wrong

Wrong Division
 Truth for yesterday
 Heb 5:12-14
 2 Sam 6:6-7, Num 4:15

Right thing Right

“Right Division”
 Truth for today
 2 Tim 2:15
 2 Tim 3:16,17
 Eph 3:1-9

Wrong thing Wrong

Curses God
 Open Rebellion
 The Lost Sinner
 Rom 3:10, 23
 Prov 6:11-14
 Prov 17:11

Wrong thing Right

Religion
 False Worship
 False Prayer
 Matt 15:7-9
 Matt 7:22,23
 Luke 8:11-15



Although some things today appear to be outrageous, how can the Christian take a position on any issue that claims to be out of the Bible or received from God? How do we ensure that we do the right thing right?

The principles of right division give the Bible student a compass and a rudder to study scripture and protect from error... by navigating through the Bible knowing what pertains to whom, and when.

All scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness therefore, the Christian is lacking nothing to study and be approved unto God (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16,17).

When you study the Bible, you must compare scripture with scripture (Phil 1:10) to arrive at the scriptures interpretation of what is being said. If you don't then you may take the word of God out of context and arrive at your own interpretation full of error (2 Peter 1:20).

The following are internal laws for studying scripture that enable the Bible student to get the proper interpretation:

1. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:16)
2. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God *that the man of God may be perfect (fitted), thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (II Timothy 3:16)
3. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing* the Word of truth (II Timothy 2:15)
4. No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (II Peter 1:20)
5. The dispensation of God which is given to me (Paul) for you to fulfil (complete, fill to the full so no more can be added) the Word of God; even the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but is now manifest to His saints. (Colossians 1:25,26)
6. I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this man, 'Go', and he goeth, and to another 'Come', and he cometh; and to my servant, 'Do this', and he doeth it...". When Jesus heard this he marvelled and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:8-10)
7. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17)
8. That you may approve the things that are (more) excellent (Phillipians 1:10) comparing spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13).

It was Miles Coverdale, who gave us our first complete translation of the Bible, who had in the fly-leaf of his Bible the following words concerning the laws of interpretation:

“It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture, if you mark not only what is spoken, or written, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, considering what goes before, and what follows”.

