

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Mitchells are traveling to Canada visiting family.
- Bobbie Holms passed, keep his family in your prayers.
- April's aunt has a broken foot.
- Elvia Ruckman has pneumonia not doing well.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Kevin Anderson, Ross & Debbie's son-in-law who is serving in the Army and is deployed in Afghanistan
- Save the Date: Bobby Graham will be holding a Gospel Meeting for us September 17-22, 2017

For prayer requests, call or text Chad @ (208) 221-2587

Assignments

Today

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – David Porter
Lord's Table – David Porter
Sermon – Ross Ward

Wednesday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – David Porter
Invitation – Ross Ward

Next Sunday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – David Porter
Lord's Table – David Porter
Sermon – Ross Ward

Next Wednesday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – David Porter
Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot church of Christ
 370 North Shilling Ave.
 Blackfoot Idaho, 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
 Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



www.facebook.com/Blackfoot-Church-of-Christ
www.blackfootchurch.com



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot church of Christ / Blackfoot, ID

Volume 5 Number 30

July 16, 2017

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

By Ross Ward

“All false doctrine is based on the fallacy of partial truth”

Elmer Moore

This is a very profound statement that gives significant insight into how we interpret the doctrine of Christ. Have you noticed when discussing doctrinal issues with others that they state many truths but they seemingly overlook passages that have significant bearing on the doctrine they profess? Mostly right is like being mostly dead (Princess Bride), Correct? Not exactly. In the real world, you are either alive or dead. Same with doctrine, it's either completely correct or wrong. Paul gave Timothy inspired teaching regarding how we behave, what we believe, and what we teach. In 2 Timothy 2:15, Give diligence to present yourself approved unto God rightly dividing the word of truth.

Paul's first admonition: Give Diligence. This speaks to the effort required for the next admonitions he makes. The idea is not a lackadaisical attitude but one of great effort, one that should involve great concern, to exert yourself or even to make haste.

Paul's second admonition: Present yourself approved unto God. This speaks to “who” Timothy was to please. At the root of this admonition is by what authority he is to live and speak. It was not Paul's intention for Timothy to please men or even the church membership where he may be working. His work was to please God in his life and his message. Paul reinforces both ideas in the following verses. In Timothy's life: 2 Tim 2:19-26, in Timothy's message: 2 Tim 4:1-4.

Paul's third admonition: Rightly dividing the word of truth. Now this speaks to the quote we started with in the article. False doctrines are founded in partial truths, which are actually not truths at all. We see that even Paul was concerned for Timothy on how he would interpret and apply the word of God. Paul is admitting that well meaning and sincere Christians can misunderstand the word of truth. By all means, if Timothy was warned of this error, we should also pay great attention. In reality, we have the ability to manipulate, twist, and misquote the word of God, despite our sincerity and desire to do and teach right.

So what do we do with this inspired teaching by Paul:

Be Dilligent: We should put the effort in to studying and understanding the whole of God's word. We all have easy access and God's word is understandable to all who read. We are each individually accountable for what we believe and practice.

Be Approved by God: We should not seek to please man; that is to follow a man's teaching or a man's example. We are to seek to follow God's word and Christ's example. By doing this we will be approved by God and will have His approval on the day of judgment.

Rightly divide the word of truth: We should take great care in considering the sum of scripture. One passage may appear to teach a doctrine, then another may add meaning that was not conveyed in the first. We must be very cautious that we do not base our beliefs and our life on a scripture that we take out of context or otherwise misinterpret. In reality, a partial truth is no truth at all.

SAND & STONE

From A Christian's Voice; Volume 8, March 19, 2006 Number 19;

Editor Bill Sexton

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "today my best friend slapped me in the face." They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "Today my best friend saved my life." The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone. Why ?" The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.

"Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone. They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them."

Comment and pondering on the above!

Isn't that a wonderful idea that is workable and profitable? Would not our lives be happier and more successful if in fact we would allow the hurt to vanish with the wind, while we treasured the good things done to each of us. I'm sure that it would be much better. Yet, we are inclined to do the opposite, are we not?

All of us have so many good things to happen to us throughout our lifetime, yet the HURT things seem to dominate in our mind, unless we make a conscious effort to forgive and forget. We see people at times remember some hurtful event in their live have made such an impressing on them that their life is order on that one hurtful even. They are miserable, and cause pain to those with whom they are associated.

We have the ability and choice to determine with what we will fill our mind. Paul, the inspired apostles give us the things we out to spend much of our time THINKING on:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. {honest: or, venerable} Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." (Phil. 4:8-9)

How shall we respond to these words of advice?

-----William C. "Bill" Sexton