

Making Proper Divisions in the Bible

Ephesians 2

Introduction

- *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15*
- There are divisions in the Bible that must be distinguished. If you do not recognize these divisions, you cannot be an _____ workman.
- You may ask, “How do I learn to rightly divide God’s Word and make the proper distinctions in God’s Word?”
- There is a simple three-fold division that the apostle Paul gives us in Ephesians 2 that will provide a general guide in helping us to rightly divide the Scripture.
- These are not the only divisions we see in Scripture, but it will give us a panoramic view of God’s dealings with mankind and how it is laid out in Scripture.

“Time Past” – vs. 11-12

1. There is one major, unmistakable, characteristic of “time past.” God made a distinction between the circumcision (the nation of Israel), and the uncircumcision (the Gentile nations.)
2. The covenant of circumcision built a _____ between Israel and the other Gentile nations. This physical distinction brought _____ ramifications. Ephesians 2:12; cf. Genesis 17:14
3. In time past, God dealt with humanity on the _____ of a distinction between Israel (the circumcision) and the Gentiles (the uncircumcision).
4. There was a _____ wall of partition between Israel and the nations that was erected through circumcision and the Law of Moses. Ephesians 2:14

“But Now” – vs. 13-18

1. The Bible is quite clear. God’s dealings with mankind have changed today.
 - The middle wall of partition between Israel and the Gentiles has been _____ down.

- The Jew no longer enjoys a _____ status in the eyes of God.
 - Jews and Gentiles stand before God on an absolute _____ basis.
 - Jew or Gentile individuals can be reconciled to God through personal _____ in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
 - Jew and Gentile believers are brought into a spiritual _____ called the body of Christ, and both enjoy equal privilege and access before God.
2. This “but now” time period that we are enjoying today is called “the dispensation of the grace of God.” Ephesians 3:2

“Ages to Come” – vs. 5-7

1. This dispensation of grace will not _____ forever. It will one day come to an end with the Body of Christ being caught up out of the earth to occupy its position in heavenly places. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
2. But what will become of this earth once the body of Christ is caught up?
 - The nation of Israel will once again become the focus. Israel will encounter a _____ year purging called “the time of Jacob’s trouble.”
Jeremiah 30:7
 - After this, Christ will _____ to this earth and will rule and reign as Israel’s Messiah and King. Israel will finally become the blessing to all nations that God originally intended and promised them. Romans 11:25-27
3. In the ages to come, Christ will become the focus of everything. Ephesians 1:10
 - Christ will be glorified in the _____ through His body (the church.)
 - Christ will be glorified on _____ through His chosen vessel, Israel.