

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

II Timothy 2:15-19

Intro:

- A. Words are vehicles for carrying ideas.
 - 1. They carry man's ideas.
 - 2. They carry God's ideas.

- B. Paul warns Timothy of those who wrongly use words. Vs 14
 - 1. They used words in such a sloppy way that their hearers were not helped.
 - 2. Their inaccurate use of God's word resulted in a confused and demoralized congregation. Vs 14

I. The Preacher Is A Workman. Vs 15

- A. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God,..."
 - 1. "Study" = σπουδαζω = "to give diligence", "Earnestly".
 - 2. "Approved" = δόκιμος = "proven by being tested".
 - 3. "Shew" = παριστημι = "to cause to stand near".
 - 4. "Earnestly endeavor to present yourself..."

 - B. "...a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,..."
 - 1. "Workman" = ἐργάτης = "worker" There is no particular occupation named. The context is mute.
 - 2. "Ashamed" = ἀνεπαίσχυτον = "having no cause for shame".
 - 3. "...who doesn't have to be ashamed"

 - C. "...rightly dividing the word of truth."
 - 1. "Rightly divide" = ὀρθοτομεω = "to cut along a straight line" This figure of speech could be referring to plowing a straight line, cutting stone straight, or cutting material in a straight line such as a tentmaker.
 - 2. "Declaring the word of truth without distortion"
- CON

II. The Result Of Wrongly Dividing God's Word.

- A. Vs 16 "But shun profane and vain babblings:..."
1. "Shun" = περιστημι = "to shift around", "avoid".
 2. "Profane" = βέβηλος = "unhallowed", "common".
 3. "Vain babblings" = κενοφωνια = "empty sound".
- B. "...for they will increase unto more ungodliness."
1. "Increase" = προκοπτω = "to set before", "advance".
 2. "Ungodliness" = ασεβεια = "without God".
 3. "Avoid all that profane jargon for it leads people still further into irreligion".
- C. Vs 17 "And their word will eat as doth a canker:..."
1. "Eat" = νομη = "grazing", "feeding", "pasture".
 2. "Canker" = γαγγραινα = "gangrene", "cancer", "or spreading ulcer". This adequately describes the insidious spread of any false teaching.
- D. "...of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;"
1. "...are men of that stamp"
 2. Cancer is serious, Paul meant to have Timothy know exactly what he meant."

III. A Specific Example Of Wrong Division.

- A. Vs 18 "Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already;..."
1. "Erred" = αστοχεω = "to miss the mark", "to go astray".
 2. "Who have swerved from the truth".
 3. "They preach that the resurrection has come about already".
- B. "...and overthrow the faith of some."
1. "Overthrow" = ανατρω = "to turn up or over".
 2. "and they are overturning the faith"

IV. The Truth Cannot Be Destroyed.

- A. Vs 19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal..."
1. "Foundation" = θεμέλιος = "fundamental".
 2. "Sure" = στερεός = "solid", "firm", "immoveable".
 3. "Seal" = σφραγίς = "a marking".
 4. "Yet God's solid foundation stands unmoved and this is the inscription on it".
- B. "...The Lord knoweth them that are his...."
1. "The Lord knows His own" - NEB
 2. "...those who are really His" - TAY
- C. "...And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
1. "Depart" = αφιστημι = "to leave", "let every one stand off from", "a definite break".
 2. "Let every one that uses the Lord's name break from and stand away from all wickedness."

