

Does Your Pastor Teacher Know How to Rightly Divide the Word of Truth

Colossians 1:25?

Let us see where we are:

6 Sundays ago, We introduced Dispensations and The Mystery; where we studied the doctrine of Dispensations.

5 Sundays ago, We looked at several charts on Dispensations.

3 Sunday's ago, We examined questions on or from these (or last Sunday) charts.

2 Today, We return to Colossians 1:25 and the crucial place your Pastor-Teacher is in and how vital it is for you to pick a Pastor-Teacher with great care.

Colossians 1:25

25 ***Of this church*** (in italics, not in original manuscripts but it refers back to verse 24...) **His body...the church** (now move into verse 25) ***of this church*** (not a Local Church but the body of Christ) **I was made a minister** (by God) **according to the stewardship** (this is the word dispensation) **from God bestowed on me**-(by grace; no Pastor-Teacher earns or deserves the gift of Pastor-Teacher, but neither does any believer earn or deserve their Spiritual gift graciously given to them by the Holy Spirit at the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST by the Plan of God the Father..)

Now Paul is going to talk about the importance of the communicator of the Word of God.

for your benefit, This statement is so important for every Pastor-Teacher to be constantly aware of; and the principle applies to every Spiritual Gift.

Your Spiritual Gift is given to you so that you can **serve others in Spiritual Love.** (verse 8)

My Spiritual Gift of Pastor-Teacher is not for me but for the benefit of everyone who listens to what God the Holy Spirit reveals to me.

Now How Is It For Your Benefit?

If you are going to **increase in the knowledge of God** (verse 10) and **grow in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST** (2 Pet. 3:18) you will have to find a man gifted as Pastor-Teacher and who studies and teaches the Word of God (verse 7). Remember people, your spiritual gift is so that you can serve the Lord, in a local assembly of believers.

so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God,*

Note **so that:** this is the Infinitive of Purpose—telling why he was graciously made a minister in this dispensation.

so that or for the purpose that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the Word of God.* King James **to fulfill the Word of God.**

Question:

What does this mean?... To fulfill the Word of God?

2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers—especially those with the gift of Pastor-Teacher to be involved in hermeneutics:

15 **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.**

Be diligent (King James-) **study**; (other translations) **do your best; work hard; make every effort; hasten; take care of yourself; carefully study; strive diligently; earnestly seek** (these are all attempts to translate the Aorist Active Imperative of the Greek verb meaning *earnestness, diligence or eager!* “to make every effort to do ones best; to be eager.”)

In Classical Greek –being eager about doing something, or applying oneself to a task with diligence, being serious about what you are doing. In classical Greek. it was used ‘to study’ but to study with care, with caution.

This is in the imperative and the imperative here is involved: that is, in order for a Pastor-Teacher to **be diligent in your study.**

FIRST This involves the Filling of the Holy Spirit—so he must know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit (—by Grace through Faith—); then,

SECOND He must sit down and study—study—study—not getting all involved in many other activities.

If a man has the gift of Pastor-Teacher and is married and has a family he will have to be extremely well-disciplined.

—Dr. K. Barker, in Dallas Theological Seminary =

“it would do him well to have his study away from home”.

Next, we have *why* he must be **diligent in your study**.

Be diligent in your study—to present yourself (This is the Aorist Active Infinitive—infinitive of Purpose—) **for the purpose that** (or) **in order to present yourself**. (The verb is a compound Greek verb made up of the prefix *para* which means *near* + *histemi* which means *to place* or *to stand—to cause to stand near or before—to present*.)

Now we have a **sobering reality** for every male with the gift of Pastor-Teacher.

approved to God:

Be diligent in your study to present yourself approved to God.

This should everyday be on the mind of every

Pastor-Teacher. I hope you will see this:

We just saw in Colossians 1:25 that his gift is not for himself but for those who will listen. But he is responsible to God in how he uses his gift. And people this applies to every one of you also.

approved is the Greek adjective *dokimos* *approved, acceptable, tried and approved*; this word is most often used in Classical Greek in the refinement process of metal—metal (especially, gold and silver) that is tested—and after being tested—by fire—is approved as pure or genuine and the word came easily to refer to humans—tried in battle or in some field of service as being approved;

Now the really difficult point:
Tested and Approved by whom?

God

One of the occupational hazards of the Pastor-Teacher is being satisfied with the approval by man (*approved by those you teach*), and while—to be approved by those you teach—is desirable—in the final analysis is—the most desirable for the Pastor-Teacher is he approved by God???

Question: How is the Pastor-Teacher tested?

Generally, this is not before man!

This is before God!

Man may praise you but does God approve?

As to the testing, we could go back over 1 Corinthians 3. This passage is applied to every believer, but if we examine closely the context, this passage is definitely referring to the Pastor-Teacher.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

1 Corinthians 3 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Foundations for Living

- 1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.
- 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,
- 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of
Apollus," are you not *mere* men?
5 What then is Apollus? And what is Paul? Servants through
whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each
one.
6 I planted, Apollus watered, but God was causing the growth.
7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is
anything, but God who causes the growth.
8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will
receive his own reward according to his own labor.
9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's
building.
10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a
wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is
building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds
on it.
11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is
laid, which is Jesus Christ.
12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver,
precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show
it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire
itself will test the quality of each man's work.
14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will
receive a reward.
15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he
himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the
Spirit of God dwells in you?
17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him,
for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.
18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that
he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he
may become wise.
19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For
it is written, "*He is* THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR
CRAFTINESS";
20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE
USELESS."
21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to
you,

- 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you,
23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

I | Doctrine

What is interesting here is that **Doctrine (or the Word of God)** is referred to by the synecdoche of **milk and food**—verse 2 note in verse 12 doctrine is referred to as **gold, silver, precious stones; or wood, hay, straw** in context.

These are referred to, not as works of believers but of building material of Pastor-Teachers where **wood, hay** and **straw** is not referring to false doctrine, but to weakness of teaching that will not allow the believer to make it through a storm in life

Many Christians fill churches where they get sermonettes and are so pleased, but then when trouble hits their lives... (as it will) they find that **wood, hay** and **straw** will not see them through the storms of life.

**And verse 13 is the testing for approval by God...
not in time but at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

II | Believers

Noted as brethren in the family of God verse 1 or Spiritual men verse 1 of infants in Christ verse 1; God's field and God's building verses 9; Temple of God verse 16; and in verse 17 you are holy; and verse 23 you belong to JESUS CHRIST.

III | Pastor-Teachers

Communicators of the Word of God are referred to as
servant verse 5;
planters and waterers verse 6;
one who lays foundation and one who builds on it verse 10.

Back to 2 Timothy 2:15 speaking primarily to Pastor-Teachers **be diligent in your study to present yourselves approved to God.**

before we move on in this study of Hermeneutics, I want to remind each of you that you, also, will be tested for approval by God for rewards: James 1:12 **Blessed is a man** male/female—referring to believers **who perseveres under trial;** *persevere **hupomeno*** which refers to perseverance from the trials of life, things that happen in life; in contrast with **marothumeo**, Longsuffering of love—persevering under the testing that comes from others—believers or unbelievers.

for once he has been approved, by God he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

OK, believer: This reward of the Crown of life is received at the Judgment Seat of Christ and is based on two things:

- 1 **perseveres under trial** and
- 2 **loves the Lord.**

Why is this added?

This means that you persevere under the power of the Holy Spirit not of the flesh. Many people diligently serve the Lord... out of the flesh—strong willed and self-disciplined in the flesh. Another passage that is so important for every believer to be aware of in this life 1 Peter 1:7.

- 7 **so that the proof of your faith,** (testing of your Faith) **being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire,** (severe difficulties in your life) **may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of JESUS CHRIST.** (Judgment Seat of Christ)

Now look at 1 Peter 4:12-13

- 12 **Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you,** (severe adversities sent by Satan or by God or by world) **which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;** (this is why I teach when you cry out in prayer to God... **“Why? How long oh Lord?”** You know that you are in the Conflict—your Faith is under testing.

- 13 **but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.** (At the Judgment Seat of Christ.)

We studied sharing the sufferings of Jesus Christ in
Colossians 1:24

Now, back to 2 Timothy 2:15 **be diligent in your study in order to present yourselves approved to God**

As a wonderful person, with a great personality, or a great orator... **NO...**

but, **as a workman ...**

Now wait just a minute...

I thought we were not supposed to do any work!

OH, YES, WE ARE; **every born-again believer is a workman for God, for Christ, for the glory of Christ**, and your rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be based on what kind of workman you were during your life here on earth.

Ephesians 2:10

10 **For we are His workmanship**, we are saved by the Work of God **created in Christ Jesus** creation of New Spiritual Species; now look at why we were created in Christ Jesus **FOR good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

Ok, this means that we are workman for Christ in the Power and Leading of the Holy Spirit.

Add to this Titus 2:14

14 **who gave Himself for us** (JESUS CHRIST on cross) **to redeem us from every lawless deed**, (anything done in the flesh, outside of the Holy Spirit) **and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.**

Question:

Are you zealous for good deeds... good works?

Not just, ok, I will do them but Zealous!

An inner personal drive to do good works?

Which means you have a Zeal to be in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit to be a **workman for Christ**. I am so thankful to our God for the people in this assembly. Zealous for good works with our young people, missionaries and right here in our own assembly.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 **be diligent in your study in order to present yourselves approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed**

FIRST:

The New Testament is very clear on rewards or loss of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Get this into your thinking.

SECOND:

Shame is for some a reality in life, but it will be a reality for many at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

1 John 2:28

28 **Now, little children,** (new believers or believers who have not grown spiritually) **abide in Him,** (by the Filling of the Holy Spirit, by Faith) **so that when He appears,** (Rapture—Judgment Seat of Christ) **we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.**

I have spoken many times of when we first see JESUS CHRIST face-to-face—go up and hug Him for all He means to you!

But I am afraid that a multitude of believers will do just the opposite

—**they will shrink away from Him—**

Oh, they will recognize Him as their Savior but **they will shrink away from Him in shame** because they did not make Him the center of their lives, the very reason for their living;

They simply did not have time to go to the local church and worship Him with other believers.

They did not have time to tell many others of JESUS CHRIST;

They did not have time to pray except maybe thanks for food or the old stand-by prayer: ‘Help!’ and

They were certainly too busy to walk by Faith in the Holy Spirit and, therefore, they **will be ashamed.**

People make no doubt about this—**right after the Rapture you will stand before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

FIRST: Note the word **must** no way of missing this—this is going to happen to every one of us,

THEN: **must all**
That is every believer—everyone of us—not with your parents or husband or wife or preacher; we must each stand before Him **before the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

OK, there are some Pastor-Teachers who translate this **the bema seat of Christ.**

Often, they do this to take away the **sting** of the concept of the JUDGEMENT SEAT of Christ.

So, don't be deceived by '**bema seat**'.

The Greek **bema** refers to any elevated seat of a magistrate or judge and, yes, it refers to the seat that JESUS CHRIST sits upon as He *judges* believers.

And people do not like to think of JESUS CHRIST as a judge or especially... Their judge...

They do not mind Him judging unbelievers at the Second Advent and at the Great White Throne, but certainly not them!

We are saved, do not need to be judged.

Well this judging has nothing to do with Eternal-Life Salvation nor does this have anything to do with the judgments cast upon believers for sin by Satan!

What is interesting here is that JESUS CHRIST is our defense attorney 1 John 2:1-2.

In fact, let us look at Job 1:6-7

6 **Now there was a day when the sons of God angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.**

7 **The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.”**

What is Satan roaming around the earth looking for?
He is looking for believers in JESUS CHRIST that he can bring down, accuse before God.

Now Revelation 12:10

10 **Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”**

Now look at 1 John 2:1-2

1 **My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;**

2 **and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world*.**

NOW: from Sunday morning in Colossians...

It is so important to know which dispensation you are in:

- (1) The Job passage took place in Age of Gentiles;
- (2) While the Revelation passage will take place in Tribulation and
- (3) The 1 John passage takes place in the Church Age.

PRINCIPLE:

These are things that are common in every dispensation:

Like the need of Salvation.

And **the means of Salvation**

is the same in every dispensation

and something else is common in every dispensation

—Work of Satan—

prowling about seeing whom he can devour.

(only at the end of Millennium because he is bound most of the Millennium)

But at the Judgment Seat of Christ,

He is not our defense attorney,

He is our Judge;

There simply is no defense

for a believer not walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

Simply stated:

This does not involve sins—all personal sins are taken care of at the cross.

Good—anything, everything in power of the Holy Spirit.

Bad—anything, everything not in power of the Holy Spirit.

“But Lord, I gave more money than anyone”

→in the flesh

“But I witnessed to more people”

→in the flesh

Therefore, a lot of believers are going to **shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.** And I don't want this to include any of you.

Many are troubled by the idea that there will be shame after death for the born-again believer, but the Bible is very clear that many believers will experience shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Shame

a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of wrong or foolish behavior

→ Not living by Faith in the Holy Spirit;
absence of simple faith in our lives.

I think this is so interesting:

Unbelievers will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment—not for or because of sins, but only the sin of—ABSENCE OF FAITH — refusing to believe in JESUS CHRIST; Their sins were judged at the cross, while those with Eternal-Life will be judged for ABSENCE OF FAITH in their lives.

“Dishonor signifies what does away with honor
Disgrace- signifies to degrade.

Shame expresses more than disgrace
Shame signifies what produces shame;”

And what produces Shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ is
that CHRIST, your Savior,
was simply not that important to you in life;

Even though He saved you from eternal Lake of Fire
To Eternity with God the Father,

He simply was not all that important in your life;

If you did ‘good’ in the flesh,
it was to boast of yourself, not of the Holy Spirit.

You see, dishonor and disgrace are a result of when we sin---
taken care of by Grace Recovery;

**but shame is not from what we do,
but from what we failed to do!!**

The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to help us to know how to properly interpret, understand, and apply the Bible.

And the proper hermeneutics is to interpret the Word of God
consistently literally
(as opposed to allegorically)
grammatical, historically.

Only One Life 'Twill Soon Be Past
Only What's Done "In Christ"
(by the Filling of the Holy Spirit)
Will Last