

Unauthorized person, council or organization*). The word, "**reverend**," is used only once in the English translation, the K.J.V. of the Bible, and is descriptive of the name of God (Psa. 111:9). No man has a right to place himself on the level of deity (Mt. 23:8).

While all 66 books of the Bible are the inspired words of God, the *New Testament* is the *binding* law in the Christian Age (Heb. 10:9; Rom. 15:4). If your creed book contains *more* than the Bible contains, then it contains too much. If your creed book contains *less* than the Bible contains, then it contains too little. If your creed book contains just what the Bible contains, then it *is* the Bible and no other creed book is needed (1 Cor. 4:6).

The work of the Reformers sought to put the Bible into the hands of the common people. Many sacrificed their lives for this cause. In America that goal has been accomplished. Many today have *more* than one Bible. Now that the Bible has been put back into the hands of the people, let us demand a book, chapter and verse from those who preach from the pulpits (1 Peter 4:11). Let us imitate the first century Bereans who searched the Scriptures *daily* to see if what the apostle Paul had preached was really in the Bible. Surely if the *inspired* apostle Paul did not become offended when his message was graded by the people, neither should any preacher today (Acts 17:10-11). Let us tell our friends who are in religious error they have the opportunity, right and obligation to "**prove all things, hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:21). Let us recognize that *we* can interpret the Word of God for ourselves on things necessary for salvation and that any "church" that is built upon *man's* doctrine instead of the doctrine of Christ has no authority for its existence (Eph. 5:17; Mt. 15:13-14).

In The Church

All the sin problems in the church such as materialism, a fleshly definition of love, the belief that doctrine is not important, the lack of zeal for evangelism may be traced back to this same problem first exhibited in the beautiful garden, disrespect of God's authoritative Word. (cf. Heb. 13:5-6; 2 Jn. 5-6; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Jn. 9-11).

In The Christian's Life

All the sin problems in the individual Christian's life such as the failure to continue in daily prayer and the failure to study the Bible, means that at some time, somebody, when a the crucial decision was to be made, *chose* to disrespect what God's Word said and instead chose to do what *he* wanted to do. (cf. Phil. 4:6-7; 2 Tim. 2:15).

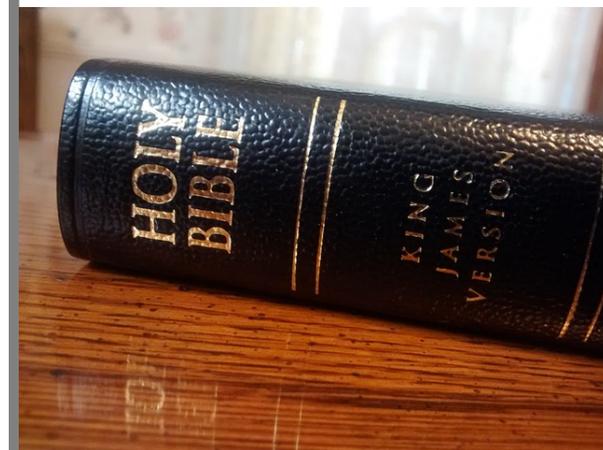
Men are to "**rightly divide**" the Word of Truth, the Bible, according to 2 Tim. 2:15. Though this command was originally written to a preacher, Timothy, the principle is certainly applicable to all responsible human beings. Many have *read* the Bible but how many have been *approved of God* in their study? Many have *read* the Bible but how many have *studied* it? Many have claimed to have *rightly divided* the Bible, but how many know the difference between:

- **The Old and New Testaments,**
- **Explicit and Implicit teaching,**
- **Direct Statements, Approved Examples, and Implications?**

The Solution

The Bible shows the way to abundant life (Jn. 10:10; Jn. 14:6). May we show God we appreciate him giving us his book by: studying it, believing it, practicing it, and even teaching it to others. Then we can say, "**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path . . . O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day**" (Psa. 119:97, 105). *You*, my friend, are at the cross roads, what will your decision be? Will you respect the Word of God today? Will you believe and obey the gospel of Christ today so as to position yourself to spend eternity with God? *The Bible teaches Christ as head & elders as overseers (Col. 1:18; Acts 20:28).

RESPECT FOR THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE



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