

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH #3 **INTRODUCTION TO DISPENSATIONS**

2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2

Through the biblical study of dispensations, you will discover how the whole Bible _____ together! Dispensations are puzzle pieces which, when aligned properly, allow you to see the big _____ of the Bible.

I. DISPENSATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- The word “dispensation” is found four times in the Bible. Each occurrence sheds _____ on the meaning of the term.

cf. 1 Corinthians 9:17 - A dispensation refers to a _____ that God has given to Paul. Therefore, Paul is to be a good _____ of that which God has dispensed to him.

cf. Ephesians 1:10 - A dispensation refers to a _____ of time.

cf. Ephesians 3:2 - The dispensation of the _____ of God is mentioned. The responsibility was initially given to Paul to make known the grace of God available to all men through Jesus Christ. Today, that is the responsibility of _____.

cf. Colossians 1:24, 25 - Notice once again that a dispensation refers to a responsibility which anticipates _____.

- God expects his stewards to be _____ with that which He has dispensed to them (**cf. 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2**).

II. DISPENSATIONAL DISTINCTIVES

- Every dispensation emphasizes a specific _____ of God.

Example #1 - cf. Numbers 11:1 - The law revealed the _____ and _____ of God.

Example #2 - cf. Hebrews 1:8, 9 - The millennial dispensation will reveal the _____ of God - His righteousness will be _____.

*****During a dispensation, all of God's attributes are revealed, but one is _____ above the others.*****

- In every dispensation, God _____ man by various ways and, every time, man _____ in the end.

cf. Romans 3:4 - Every dispensation proves that God is _____ and man is _____. Even in the most perfect environment (Eden) man was not _____ and man _____ miserably!

*****The study of dispensations reveals the _____ and the _____ among God's people. Someone who does not rightly divide the Bible runs the risk of falling into _____!*****

III. DISPENSATIONAL DIVISIONS

There are a few different ways to make dispensational divisions. Listed below are Scofield's.

1. **Innocence** - Genesis 1:28
2. **Conscience** - Genesis 3:23
3. **Human Government** - Genesis 8:20
4. **Promise** - Genesis 12:1
5. **Law** - Exodus 19:8
6. **Grace** - John 1:17
7. **Kingdom** - Ephesians 1:10

There are others (Larkin, Shafer, Ryrie, etc.) who have made the divisions slightly different. While there is not necessarily a "right and wrong" when it comes to classifying dispensations, the key is to recognize that there are indeed _____ in the way God has tested man throughout the ages.

A FINAL WORD: While *all* Scripture is _____ us, all Scripture is *not* written _____ or _____ us. **This is the key to understanding the Bible.**