



BOLD TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2019

Rightly Dividing:
Ephesians 2

- **TIME PAST**
- **AGES TO COME**
- **BUT NOW**

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What is God Really Doing Today?

Have you ever wondered about what God is really doing today? There are all kinds of ideas out there about what God is doing or what He should be doing. But what is He *REALLY* doing today? Is He judging the world through natural disasters or terrorist attacks? Is He giving health, wealth and prosperity to those who name it and claim it? Is He now blessing conditionally based on our works and merit? You can certainly find verses in the Bible that seem to say these things.

Israel, for instance, was placed under the Law, and God said through Moses that if she obeyed His commandments He would destroy her enemies and

give her favorable weather conditions with abounding harvests (Lev. 26:1-13). And in the Gospels (Mt. 5-6), Jesus told His followers that He will save and bless His friends--the humble, the merciful, the pure in heart. From these passages, God's blessings appear to be given conditionally: God will forgive us if we forgive others.

But there are also many passages in God's Word that seem to say something else, in fact, the very opposite. God said through the Apostle Paul that we are not under the Law and its commandments (Rom. 6:14). In fact, God's Righteousness is now revealed apart from the Law (Rom. 3:21), and serving God required that we

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Keys to Rightly Dividing (Pt. I):

Time Past, Ages To Come; BUT NOW [Click Here to Listen](#)

Pastor Peter begins the series in Eph. 2 where we learn about the three basic focal points of God's Word: Time Past, BUT NOW, and the Ages to Come. Time Past looks back to what God did with national Israel in the Old Testament, the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ

in the Gospels, and the ministry of Peter and the 12 in early Acts. BUT NOW looks at what God is doing today with the Body of Christ in Paul's Epistles. The Ages to Come look ahead to what God is going to do in the future, especially with regard to national Israel on the earth—Hebrews

What is God Really Doing Today? *(Continued from p.1)*

be delivered from the Law (Rom. 7:6). According to Paul, God is not directly providing health, wealth and prosperity (2 Cor. 12), and He is not destroying His enemies. He is saving and blessing them—the unrighteous and ungodly, sinners (Rom. 5:6-10). And he does this on the basis of grace and faith apart from our works. In saving and blessing today, our works—good or bad—play no role whatsoever (Rom. 4:4-8; 11:6). So God's blessings are unconditional: God has already forgiven us so we should forgive others!

Well, which is it? And how are we to decide? Do we go with what God said through Moses or Jesus in His earthly ministry? Or do we go with what God said through the Apostle Paul? Should we just pretend they are all really saying the same thing? Should we

“spiritualize” them away so that we can make them mean whatever we want them to mean? Should we just pick the things we like and throw away the things we don't like? Are we under the Law? Or aren't we under the Law? Does God take into account our works or doesn't He? And this brings us back to our original question: What is God *REALLY* doing today? Along with the follow up question: How do we participate in what He is really doing today?

These are the two most important questions we can ask. To help us answer them, Pastor Peter presented a series of messages called *The Keys To Rightly Dividing the Word of God*.

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Rightly Dividing (Pt. I): *Time Past, Ages To Come, But Now*

through Revelation. God gives each focal point its own instructions and provisions.

For example, in Time Past God's plan for Israel was for her to display His glory on earth. Therefore, a restored spiritual relationship with God for Israel came especially with earthly/physical blessings. BUT NOW God's plan for the Body of Christ is for her to display His glory in the heavenlies. A restored spiritual relationship with God for her comes especially with heavenly/spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).

Let's look at another example: The gift of the Holy Spirit. God gave the Holy Spirit to the Body of Christ to empower her to live under Grace apart from the Law (Rom. 6-8). In the Ages to Come, however, God will give the Holy Spirit to Israel to empower her to live under the Law. There are many distinctions like these in God's Word that must be kept in mind if we are to understand what God is doing today so that we can walk well-pleasing to Him.

Pastor Peter illustrates this with a sports analogy. To play golf successfully, you have to follow the rules for golf. And to play baseball successfully, you have to follow the rules for baseball. While there are similarities between these 2 sports--they both use a ball and hit it with a stick--there are many more distinctions. If you go to a golf course and hit the golf ball with a baseball bat, you would be instantly disqualified! And if you showed up for a baseball game with a golf club...well, you would end up hurting yourself and others.

It's ridiculous, right? Well, it is just as ridiculous to mix up God's instructions for His different plans and purposes in His Word. In Time Past and the Ages to Come the Lord Jesus Christ is dealing primarily with national Israel on earth in accord with her coach Moses. BUT NOW, today, the Lord Jesus Christ is dealing with the Body of Christ in the heavenlies in accord with her coach, the Apostle Paul.

Keys to Rightly Dividing (Pt. 2): **2 Timothy 2:15**

Pastor Peter continues the series by explaining 2 Tim. 2:15:

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH.

The word “**study**” requires that we apply ourselves 100% to the discovery of God’s truth for today. This should be the priority of every Christian because it is not only important to know what we believe but to know why we believe it as well.

The word “**approved**” was used of the coins that were heated, liquified and

poured into molds. Those who did it rightly, with the full weight of the coin, were approved workmen. Believers are approved before God when they study His Word and apply it correctly to their lives. We do this as “**workmen**.” What work do we need to do with the Bible so that we are approved of God rather than being ashamed?

We must “**rightly divide**” or handle properly the Word of truth. There are all kinds of so called Bible teachers out there. But the only ones approved of God are those who “rightly divide” it. It is on that basis that we should pick our teachers because that is the only way we can know what God is saying to us today. [Click Here](#)

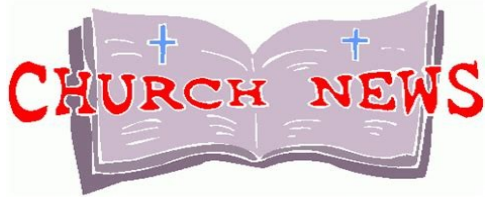
Next Pastor Peter gives us some questions that will help to direct our study of the Word of God.

[Click Here To Listen](#)

Keys to Rightly Dividing (Pt. 3 and 4): Questions To Ask When Studying the Bible

1. Who is speaking and to whom and for what purpose.
Moses and the Prophets? Christ on earth? The Apostle Paul?
2. Does it refer to Prophecy Truth or to Mystery Truth?
3. Does it have to do with Israel or the Body of Christ?
4. Is it about God’s Earthly Purpose or His Heavenly Purpose?
5. Are blessings conditional or unconditional?

If you would like to hear the complete messages from this series, please visit our website: www.gbcrm.org Click on the Audio Download button and you will find information on a large variety of biblical topics.



We are updating the Church Directory. Please contact Marilyn if you would like to add or change information for your entry.

There will be a one day Ladies Retreat on Saturday, April 6, 2019. If you would like more information, contact Marilyn.

Next Fellowship Luncheon will be on March 3rd. ALL ARE WELCOME!

We preach *Christ Crucified*¹; we worship *Jesus Christ According to the Revelation of the Mystery*²; and we study the Bible using the principle of *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*³.

1. 1 Cor. 1:23 2. Rom. 16:25 3. 2 Tim. 2:15

We meet every Sunday morning at the *Rolling Meadows Community Center* located at 3705 Pheasant Dr.

www.gberm.org

Fellowship and Refreshments: 9:30 - 9:55

Morning Service: 9:55 - 11:15

We have Sunday School for all children

Please visit our website for Directions: [Directions](#)

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