

Rightly Dividing The Word of God

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
(II Timothy 2:15).*

There are three musts in the Scripture. In using God's Word, **there are three things that you must not do.** Three things that you must not do. And all out in the land, wherever you are, across the nation, be sure to put these down in your mind if you haven't got a pencil. **You must not do these things.** We tell you all the time how you must do, **now I'm going to tell you what you must not do.**

Now, you must **not misinterpret the Word.** You say, "Well, I believe It means this." It means just what It says. It needs no interpreter. And **you must not misplace the Word.** And you **must not dislocate the Word.** And if we would do either of these, it throws the whole Bible in a confusion and in a chaos.

Notice. To misinterpret Jesus, in the form of God in a man, you would make Him one God out of three. **To misinterpret Jesus Christ being the Word (Joh. 1,1-2,14),** you would make Him one God out of three, or you would make Him the second Person in a Godhead. **And to do that, you would mess the whole Scripture up.** You'd never get nowhere. So It must not be misinterpreted.

And if you say that a certain thing, **you put an interpretation on It, and you apply It to another time;** or It's been applied to another time, you also make an **incorrect interpreting.**

If anybody misinterpret **Jesus Christ** in the Bible, **of not being God Himself (I John 5:20),** make Him the second Person, or one God out of three, this would upset every Word in the entire Bible. It would break the first commandment, "Thou shalt not have any other god before Me." (Exod. 20:3). All right. It would make the whole Christian race a bunch of pagan worshippers worshipping three different gods. See what kind of a Bible you'd have? Then it'd make us what the Jews say we are. Said, "Which one of them gods is your God?" See? So, you see, you mustn't misinterpret the Bible. For, **Jesus Himself is the interpretation of the Bible, when He's made manifest in the age that the part of His Body is being made manifest.** If it's a hand age, it must be a hand; it can't be a head age. If it's a voice age, well, then, it can't be a foot age. See? **And**

now we're at the eye age. And now the next, is **Him Himself**, to come. Seeing; prophecy!

See, down through the age, we started off from the foundation, from the first church age; when the Seed went in the ground, **the complete Seed**. Then it come out through the feet, Luther; come back out then through Wesley; then **in to Pentecostals, the tongues, in the lips, see; now it's in the eyes, prophetic, of Malachi 4**, and so forth. **And now there's nothing else left for it to come but Him Himself to step into that, 'cause that's the last thing there is.**

The next is the intelligence, and we have no intelligence of our own; it's His. We have no sight of our own. How can a man foresee those things? He can't do it. **It's God Himself.** See, it's becoming to a place. **And He's governed the body all the way through, then the complete Body of Christ is revealed in the form of a Bride that was taken out of His side**, like Adam's was at the beginning.

This would set the whole Bible in a confusion, break the first commandment, and make a god, a pagan god of three. It would just ruin the whole picture of the Bible. So you must not misinterpret the Bible. Now, that's just one thing.

When, every Scripture in the Bible has the same application, you've got to set It in Its place. **And to misplace It**, you might make Him God in one age, and the next age you'd make Him a history, to misplace It. So you mustn't misplace the Scripture. **He is God all the time.** If you made Him today a God of history, what was back yonder, and He isn't the same today, what are you going to do with Hebrews 13:8? See, *"He's the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

These three musts must be. Must not misinterpret, **or mishandle It, or dislocate It. It must be kept just exactly the way God said it was.**

To the world, **It's a Book of mystery (Matt. 13:10-17).** **The people believe It's just a mysterious Book.** One time I was talking to a very famous man here in the city, that holds a great standing of Christianity, and he said, "I tried to read the Book of Revelations one night." Said, "John must have had a big bait of hot pepper and had a nightmare." See, a Book of mystery.

But, while to the true believer, **It's the revelation of God being revealed in the age we're living in.** He said, *"My words are Spirit and Life."* (John 6:63). Jesus said that. Again, "The Word is a Seed that a sower sowed." (Luke 8:4-15). We know that that's true. **It's God in Word form, and can only be interpreted by Himself.**

The human mind is not capable to interpret the mind of God. How can the little finite mind interpret the infinite Mind, when we can't even interpret one another's mind? (*I Cor. 2:11*).

And you notice, **He is the only One can interpret It, and He interprets It to whom He will.** It didn't say, "Mortals of old, as they strode across the earth in sundry times and divers manner." "God, in sundry times and divers manner revealed Himself to His prophets." (*Heb. 1:1*). See? And, notice, **"To whom He will reveal It."** And He so designed **that He can hide Himself in the Scripture,** to the smartest theologian there is. Oh, my! He can just hide Himself, set right there in the Scripture, **and you look all day long and never see it; look a lifetime, and never see it. He can just hide Himself, setting there.** [1]

Now, we're in the evening time. We find out that at the beginning **when a messenger was sent, to misconstrue His Word or to doubt one Word, it was total annihilation and Eternal separation from God, to misconstrue that messenger's Word. And the first Messenger was God Himself.** Every other messenger has been **God speaking through man, since, which is God's Word,** for there's no man then for Him to speak through but just the one He was talking to. **But since He's made man and redeemed man, it's been God speaking through man. He uses not the agency of any mechanical device, but the agency of man, a man that's surrendered and consecrated to God.** [2]

I Corinthians 13:10-11 says this: *"When that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away with."* So all these little things of jumping up-and-down like a kid, trying to talk in tongues, and all these other things, when that which is perfect... And **we do have today, by God's help, the perfect interpretation of the Word with Divine vindication.** Then that which is in part is done away with. *"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child; but when I become a man, I put away childish things."* Amen. [3]

You have to depend on the Holy Spirit because **this Bible is written in riddles. You just can't sit down and read It like a newspaper. It's hidden.** Yes, sir. How would you ever justify God when He told Moses up there, said, "Now, don't you make any engraven images," in His commandments, "don't you make anything like Heaven, any Angel, or anything else" (*Exod. 20:4-5*), and yet on the same day told him to mold two Angels out of brass and put them right at the mercy seat, where

mercy's at? (*Exod. 25:18-20*). **You have to know God and His Nature before you can understand His Word.** He has the key to that Word, Himself, and He's the only One can handle It and open It, and so He's the One that has to reveal It.

And now, we find out that **His Nature was, here, to always warn a man before judgment, to warn a nation before judgment,** and so forth. He always gives His warning, a reminder to we, of a responsibility. **We are responsible, and God has put us here on the earth for a reason, and that reason that He has put us here for, we are responsible to Him for that reason.** You should go to Him and find out what He wants you to do. [4]

Even Jesus thanked His Father that He'd hidden this from the eyes of the wise and prudent **and revealed it to babes such as would learn** (*Matt. 11:25-27*). Now, it's done that to throw the wise off the track. **But the Book is a revelation.**

Well, that's the way the Bible's written--between the lines. You know many of my sermons, like of God turning Abraham and Sarah back to young people... **you have to read between the lines to see out what the Scripture says.** You have to know. **But it'll never get off the line.** See? **In between the lines will just bring the lines together and make it one big picture.**

Now, **it's got to be a love affair with God before you can ever get it, cause the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible; and the Bible said that it is of no private interpretation, but it's inspired** (*II Peter 1:19-21; II Tim. 3:16-17*). [5]

Now, **reading the Bible, It's a love Story** that God wrote to His Church. It's God. **God is love** (*I John 4:16*). Do you believe that? And the Bible is written so that the educated and smart can never understand It. **You have to be in love with God to understand It. You have to have God in you. He interprets Himself to you** (*Eph. 1:15-23*).

Now, it's just like I got a wife. Oh, how I love her! I love her with all my heart. And I'll be overseas somewhere and after she gets the kiddies to sleep, she'll write me a letter, and say, "Dear Billy, I'm sitting here tonight, I'm thinking of you. I'm writing." See, I know what she's writing on the paper. **But I know her and love her so much till I just know her nature,** I know what she means, **so I can read between the lines.** [6]

Well, that's the way God does His Bible. Now, the students can argue the Greek words, **but the believer reads between the lines.** Amen.

It's revealed by the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah. God writing His letter to His children, reading between the lines... [7]

Not read anything out of It now! **You have to read between the lines to see what It's meaning.** [6]

That's the way it is with God, when **not trying to study from some newspaper standpoint, some theological standpoint. But fall in love with Him, get down and really get Him in your heart, "the love of God shed abroad in their heart by the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 5:5), then go to reading the Bible and you'll see It coming right out between the lines. See, you know what He is saying. He never said that right out in the Word.** Jesus thanked the Father because that He had "*hid those things from the eyes of the wise and prudent.*" Now, no one else could read my wife's letters like that, 'cause I love her that way, see, and that's the way she writes to me. **That's the way God writes to you. It's between the lines, you read It.** [8]

It's a love affair. **And when we're born-again of God, reading the Bible, it becomes more than just a story. It's a love affair between the believer and God.** [9]

Now, when you become in love with Christ, that's the way you read the Bible. **It's in between the lines. You get what He's talking about, the real spiritual meaning.** [10]

The Bible, you must read between the lines, **because God has hid It from those who just read the word alone.** I am quoting Scripture that He has hid It from the eyes of the wise and prudent, **and will reveal It to babes such as will learn. Then it's the baby that'll humble himself, not be puffed up, but be humble, and say, "Lord, I believe It."** [11]

What's conquered things, has been love. What conquers the sick, is love. God so loved the world. **God is love.** And they that love are of God (*I John 4:7-8,16*).

Now, God has written the Bible, a love letter to His Church. **Until you read with love, you'll never be able through a cold-educational program ever find God. You've got to have the love of God in your heart (Rom. 5:5), then you'll read between the lines. That's where the real thing lays.** [12]

Now, that's the way it is with God. **Not because you know so much, but because you love Him, and He loves you, set down and read His**

love Letter. And He will just speak to you right between the letters. The real context is in the text, and the context is revealed by the Holy Ghost. Think of it, brother, how that is. That's right. See? It's a love Letter, a love affair between you and your Maker. And He will reveal it to you as you have need of. [13]

Now, as I expressed a few moments ago **about reading between the lines... But if you're reading between the lines and try to make It say something, that in between the lines says something different than what the lines say, then it's wrong. But it's got to agree, all the way through It.** The Bible is just like a great jig-saw puzzle. And if you just try to put it together just the way you look at it, you've got to have something over here to look at. If you don't, you'll ruin your scene. You'll have a cow picking grass on top of a tree. So it won't be right.

So that's the way it is when you try to put the Bible together **with an intellectual understanding of It. You can't do it. It's a Spirit written Word, and it takes the Holy Spirit to place It together.** Then you get the whole great picture from Eden out into chaos, and the way of the cross back home. That's the entire picture: **God's redemption story of sending His own Son to redeem a lost and polluted people** (*Rom. 3:23-24*). [14]

Reference:

- [1] "Christ Is Revealed In His Own Word" (65-0822M), par. 72-79, 90-93
- [2] "The End Time Evangelism" (62-0603), par. 71
- [3] "Questions & Answers" (64-0823E), par. 57
- [4] "God Doesn't Call Man To Judgment Without First Warning Him" (63-0724), par. 33-34
- [5] "Water Baptism" (61-0119A), par. E17-18
- [6] "Jehovah Jireh Part 2" (62-0706), par. 129-131
- [7] "The Working of the Holy Spirit" (56-0816), par. E63-64
- [8] "Jehovah Jireh Part 3" (64-0404), par. 167
- [9] "God Perfecting His Church" (54-1204), par. E55
- [10] "The Angel of the Covenant" (54-0301), par. E19
- [11] "Abraham" (55-0624), par. E23
- [12] "El Shaddai" (60-0802), par. E53-54
- [13] "Jehovah Jireh" (56-1209E), par. E47
- [14] "Jehovah Jireh" (59-0417), par. E23

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]