

Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

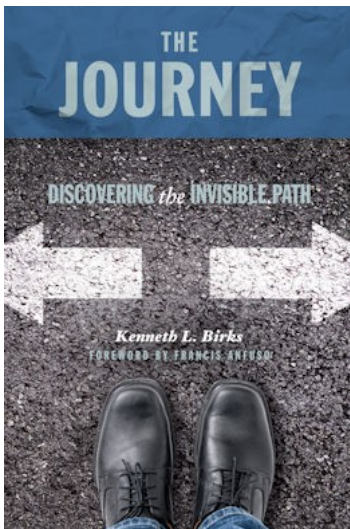
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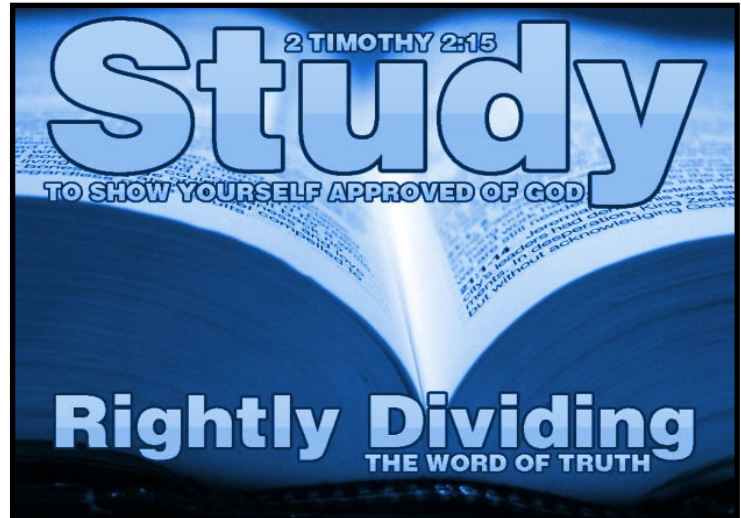
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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Condensed Version

We are living in an era in which the prophets, along with Jesus, the apostles of Christ, and the apostle Paul have spoken extensively. In all probability, we are living in the time that Jesus described as the coming birth pangs. This era is a time in which the masses are under a deceptive cloud of darkness that is invading every nook and cranny of our world.

With our world under siege by the enemy of our faith, is this not a time for the Church to arise with her pillars of truth in place?

1 Timothy 3:15 *But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar, and ground of the truth.*

Jesus warned us about the many false christs and prophets that would arise to deceive the elect. Paul said in his first epistle to Timothy, “In latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” Peter mentions in his second epistle, a warning about deceptive teachers and doctrines. He says:

2 Peter 2:1-3a *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ²And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words.*

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth (Continued)

In our world today, false teaching is running rampant. With the advent of the internet, anyone can have a voice without any accountability whatsoever. It's the perfect tool for Satan and his cohorts to transform themselves into deceitful workers, who masquerade as apostles and teachers of Christ. As the apostle, Paul said, *"And no wonder! For Satan, himself transforms himself into an angel of light."*

As church attendance has become less and less important with the advent of the internet and other forms of media, a great vacuum is formed for Satan to unleash his seductive lies with the antichrist spirit gaining momentum across the globe. John, the beloved apostle, spoke of the antichrist spirit that is already in the world and how we are to exercise discernment.

1 John 4:3 every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming and is now already in the world.

Just as Jesus and the apostles of Christ preached and taught the word, uncompromisingly, so must we in a day of darkness and gloom when sin is exalted as righteousness.

Principles for Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

As Paul wrote to young Timothy, we are to divide the word of truth rightly. Rightly dividing the word of truth doesn't just happen. There are a few principles that are necessary for it to happen that must be engaged by those who seek to uncover the buried treasure that lies between the covers of this great book known as the Bible.

Believe God Inspired all Scripture.

Believing God inspired all Scripture is a foundational stone of our faith. If we don't believe this, then, we are in doubt concerning the death and resurrection of Christ upon whom our salvation rests. It is the first and foremost principle in how to rightly divide the word of truth. Believing in the inspired word is what makes us complete in God and equips us for every good work as seen in the following passage of Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for the instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Be Fully-Immersed in the Foundational Principles.

Before a house is built, it must have a sure foundation. In His word, God has referred to His people as a spiritual house and a temple. (**2 Peter 2:5, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:19-22**) If we are to be all that God has purposed for our lives, we must

have a strong spiritual foundation. Jesus shared about this when He talked about building on the rock. He made a distinction between those who build on sand and those whose houses are built on the rock. He said the foolish build on the sand with no foundation, while the wise build on a firm foundation of rock. (**Matt 7:24**)

Building a solid foundation begins with becoming skilled in the first principles. Becoming skilled only happens to those who have immersed themselves in the elementary principles of Christ. They're able to chew on the meat of God's word. The writer of the book of Hebrews identifies what those principles are.

Hebrews 6:1-3 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God, ²of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³And this we will do if God Permits.

If our understanding of the elementary principles of Christ is incorrect, it will affect our ability to divide the heavier truths of God's word rightly. We will not be able to discover the divine harmony of the revelation of His word. The pieces of the puzzle won't fit together to paint a complete picture.

Believe there is a Divine Harmony of Revelation.

If we believe that all Scripture is inspired by God, then we must also believe there is a divine harmony of revelation that comes forth from Scripture. Holy men of God spoke as God moved on them by the Holy Spirit as Peter appropriately wrote. Therefore, we must believe that God spoke with continuity throughout the Bible. Scripture will interpret Scripture.

2 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

To believe in the divine harmony of Scriptures entails that we believe all doctrines stand in agreement with one another. They must fit together in divine harmony without contradicting one another. Just as Paul exhorted Timothy to take heed to doctrine, we must do the same. In other words, we must be careful in how we treat it.

The Holy Spirit Teaches us.

We have the same Holy Spirit within us as the holy men and prophets of old had. He is in each of us to teach us as we allow Him to open the Scriptures in our understanding. It is the Holy Spirit who searches the heart of the Father to reveal things unto us. (**1 Cor 2:7-19, Ephes. 1:17-18**) The Father desires to give us the spirit of revelation so that He can teach us.

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

by Kenneth L. Birks

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Beguiled by the enemy, truth in the streets disappears.
With seeds of deception sown, the church cries out in tears.
As truth disappears, darkness settles across the globe.
Casting his spells of deception, the world lies in his sway.
False teaching runs rampant, as the enemy has his say.

Casting off the spells of darkness, the Church rises in relief
Called to be the pillar and ground of all truth, she rises in belief.
Believing that all Scripture is inspired by God, she mends.
Called to rightly divide the word of truth, she makes amends.
As she repents, she returns to her foundation to rebuild.

With no other foundation to build upon, she rightly divides.
Immersing herself in the elementary principles, she presides.
Line upon line, here a little, there a little, she speaks with truth.
No longer caught in self-deception, she speaks truth in love.
With divine harmony of revelation in play, she comes alive.

Fully immersed in the unction of the Spirit, she teaches, reaffirmed.
With insight into riddles and mysteries, deeper truths are discerned.
With her thinking process submitted to the word, she rightly divides.
As the word takes precedence over the Spirit, in truth, she delivers
Knowing teachers receive a stricter judgment; she builds the pillars.

With the pillars of truth in place, light begins to dispel the darkness.
With the Father's glory rising upon His people, truth increases.
Not placating for the sake of relevancy, truth is restored in the streets.
As truth restores, light penetrates those once caught in hopelessness.
Without blinders, multitudes see the light, now penetrating the darkness.

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks is an ordained pastor/teacher in the body of Christ and has been associated with the Rock of Roseville Church in Roseville, CA for the past 21 Years. During which time he has functioned as a pastor, elder and teacher. Prior to this, Ken was the lead pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a non-denominational, Spirit-filled church in Roseville, CA for twelve years. Ken is a self-published author, who has written two books and a third soon to be released. He has been married to his wife, Lydia for 38 years, during which time they fostered over 25 kids of all ages. He is also a leading wedding officiant in the Sacramento Metropolitan region. He has a website at kenbirks.com that's devoted to Biblical teaching that reaches over 6,000 unique visitors a week with resources to encourage and build up the body of Christ.

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Rightly Dividing the Truth Continued from Page 2

1 John 2:20, 27 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. ²⁷But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

God has designed His word and His Spirit to partner together in all things, including how we interpret doctrine. For example, on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the early believers as a mighty rushing wind with tongues of fire, Peter relied on the Scriptures to interpret what was happening.

God Often Speaks in Riddles and Mysteries.

The Bible is full of mysteries, dark sayings, and riddles for us to discover and search out before we can properly understand all that the Father has contained in His will and purpose for our lives and the Church.

Romans 16:25 *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began.*

Ephesians 1:7,9-10 *In Him we have redemption... ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

The Father desires to reveal the mystery of His will to us as we rightly divide His word of truth. However, His truths are concealed so that only those who have ears to hear can hear and interpret His word.

Proverbs 25:2 *It is The glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter.*

It is in the study of the Scriptures with the aid of the Holy Spirit that we're led from one clue to another as the mysteries of His word are opened to our spiritual understanding. By allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture the great mysteries and riddles concealed in God's word get solved.

The Bible is a gigantic puzzle with many pieces that must be interlocked together to fully understand and solve the mysteries contained therein. As with any puzzle, the pieces must interlock together before the complete picture is seen. The Bible is no different. There are many pieces to the mysteries contained therein that must be interlocked together before the complete picture of who God is and what His purposes are in heaven and earth. Some of the pieces are quite simple and interlock together easily while others are somewhat nebulous and difficult to find how they fit in with the whole. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, He can help us fit all the pieces together in divine harmony.

Submitting our Thinking Process to the Purity of God's Word.

We all have strongholds of thinking that must be torn down and brought into the captivity of Christ. (2Corinthians 10:5) It will take a willingness to break down our old ways of thinking and processing before we can have open minds to fully receive all that God has for us from the purity of His word. We must be willing to cast down those arguments that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. It is the purity of God's word that we must conform our thinking and be loyal to if we are to stop the deception that is in our lives and the Church. Doctrinal deception is a major area of concern when it comes to rightly divide the word of truth.

Psalms 12:6 *The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver, tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

We all come from various backgrounds that have taught us to think in various ways, whether we realize it or not. As a man thinks, so is he. The problem is, we become loyal to those ways rather than the purity of God's word. We may have certain doctrinal positions, simply because that's the way someone taught us. Sometimes our identity and security are so connected to a stream or denomination that we are afraid to embrace or even consider something other than what we were taught. When we become more connected to a stream of consciousness rather than the Lord Jesus Christ and His word, we open ourselves up to deception and deceit. As Paul wrote, we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we can prove what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is.

May God bless you mightily as you go forth fulfilling His prophetic purposes for your lives and the kingdom of God. Allow His zeal to set you on fire as one of His flaming ministers filled with passion and zeal to take the kingdom by force.

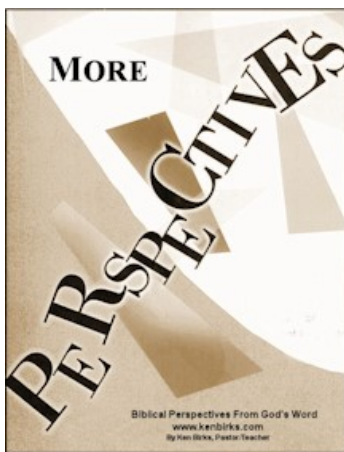
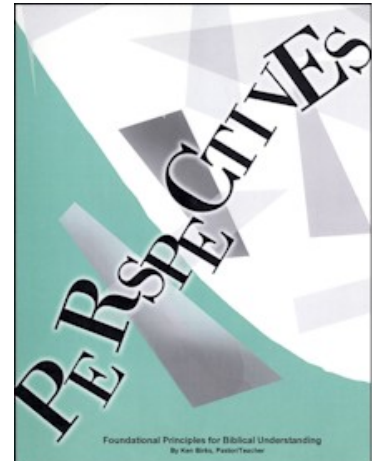
Resources from Straight Arrow Ministries

Perspectives Course & Class

The Perspectives Course includes foundations for biblical understanding that were developed for providing believers lessons that are designed to give solid Biblical foundations in the elementary truths of God's Word. They are designed with three things in mind—building a doctrinal foundation, developing godly character and discover and finding their destiny and purpose God has for them.

This workbook is available in both Teacher and Student Manuals. If you are buying for Bible Study only, just order the Teacher's Manual.

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More Perspectives Course and Class

This course features lessons that are focused on three major areas of our Christian growth—doctrine, character and destiny. It includes more advanced subjects for the believer that are designed to give a deeper Biblical understanding of God's Word that will strengthen the Christian foundation.

This workbook is available in both Teacher and Student Manuals. If you are buying for Bible Study only, just order the Teacher's Manual.

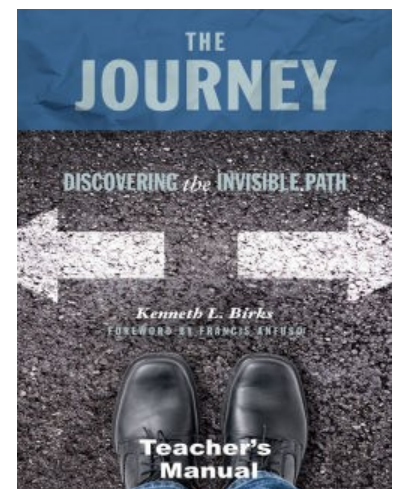
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The Journey Workbooks & Class

This class is designed to go along with the book that Ken has written on "The Journey." It includes ten lessons.

The goal of the class is to give you a glimpse into the path God has purposed for your life and to help you seize your destiny and purpose. In doing so, you will be able to live the role created for you. Whether you're just starting out on your journey, anywhere in the middle, or have become de-toured and lost your way, this practical seminar will help shine the light on the invisible path that not only leads to God's goodness and experiencing His kingdom within, but also to the greatest adventure of your life!

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Please Note: All of these workbooks come in both Teacher's and Student's Manuals. You can order both Teacher and Student manuals if you want to incorporate them into the life of your church or ministry or you can order the Teacher's Manual only for personal Bible study.