

Correctly Handling the Word of Truth—a Mark That Matters

Paul admonished Timothy: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (II Tim. 2:15, NIV).” The true church will be the church that correctly handles the word of truth, understanding the relationship between the Old Testament law of Moses and the New Testament law of the spirit and life (See II Cor. 3:1-11). **Correctly handling the word of truth is a mark that matters.**

God made clear that we should hear Christ. On the Mount of Transfiguration, He commanded: “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; hear him. (Mt.5:17).” The writer of Hebrews correctly handled the relationship between the Old and New Testaments: “God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, has at the end of these days spoken unto us in His Son (Heb. 1:1).”

The Old Testament taught that a new covenant would replace the old. “Behold the days come, declares the Lord, that I will make a new covenant . . . not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers . . .(Jer. 31:31-32).” In Hebrews of the New Testament, the writer endorses this principle that the New should replace the Old Testament by quoting Jeremiah in Heb. 8:8. The writer concluded in Heb. 8:13: “In that he says, a new covenant, he has made the first old. But that which is becoming old and waxes aged is nigh unto vanishing away.”

Jesus himself taught the proper relationship between the Old and New Testaments. At the beginning of his preaching in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught: “Think not that I came to destroy the law and the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfill (Mt. 5:17).” At the end of his time on earth he said: “. . . All things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets and psalms, concerning me (Lk. 24:44).” At his death, John records: “After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, says, I thirst (Jno. 19:28).” And a little later, He said: “It is finished: and bowed his head, and gave up his spirit (Jno. 19:30).” According to Matthew, at this very time, “And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom (Mt. 27:51).”

The apostle Paul confirms the changes that occurred at the death of Christ. Speaking of the Jews and Gentiles, he said: “. . . having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments . . . (Eph. 2:15).” Of the law, Paul added the following: “He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (Col. 2:14).” Paul spoke of the old and new laws: “. . . Who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant (II Cor. 3:6).” The summation of the law was Christ and his church, with the New Testament firmly in place: “So that the law is become our tutor to bring us unto Christ (Gal. 3:24).” Rom. 10:4 tells us: “For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to every one that believes.”

The New Testament church in the 21st century will correctly handle the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament. *This is an identifying mark that matters.*

God Has Spoken Heb. 1:1

Correctly Handling the Word of Truth II Tim. 2:15—a Mark That Matters

“I will make a new covenant.” Jer. 31:31

“In thee and thy seed shall all the nations be blessed.”

“To thy seed which is Christ.” Gal.3:16

“In that he says a new covenant, he has made the first old.” Heb. 8:13

“Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments.” Eph. 2:15

Hear ye him. Mt. 17:5

God's Promise

The Ten Commandments

Abraham

Christ

Mount Sinai

430 Years

“Our tutor to bring us to Christ.” Gal. 3:24

“Christ is the end of the law.” Rom. 10:4

“He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” Col.2:14

B
E
G

E
N
D

Old Testament

New Testament

Patriarchal Age

Jewish Age

Christian Age

2500 Years

1500 Years

Until the End

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Questions and Answers

How did Paul tell Timothy to present himself? _____

How should one to handle the word of truth? _____

How will the true church handle the word of truth? _____

Where can one read about the Mount of Transfiguration? _____

In whom is God well pleased and who are we to hear? _____

Through whom did God speak in past times? _____ How? _____

Through whom did God speak in these last days? _____

What did God promise to do in Jer. 31:31-32? _____

What Old Testament passage is quoted in Heb. 8:8-12? _____

What two things happen to an old covenant once there is a new covenant (Heb. 8:13)? _____

In Mt 5:17, what did Jesus say that he would not do to the law and the prophets? _____ What did he say that he would do to them?

In Lk. 24:44, what did Jesus says must be fulfilled? _____

When Jesus died (Jno. 19:28), what as finished? _____ What was accomplished? _____

What was the last thing Jesus said before dying (Jno. 19:30)? _____

At Jesus' death, what happen to the veil of the temple (Mt.27:51)? _____

When Jesus died what happen to the law of commandments (Eph. 2:15)? _____

In Col. 2:14, what was taken away and what was nailed to the cross? _____

Paul and the apostles were ministers of what covenant (II Cor. 3:6)? _____

In Gal. 3:24, what was the law called? _____ What did it bring us to? _____

Who is the end of the law in Rom. 10:4? _____

What is the correct relationship between the Old and New Testaments? _____