INTRODUCTION

1. This exhortation to Timothy is also applicable to us.
2. We all need to search the scriptures daily -- Acts 17:11
3. Man is a thinking being, therefore the religion of Christ is addressed to man's intelligence -- Matt. 13:15
4. The Word of God can be understood -- Eph. 5:17; Matt. 7:21

I. SOME REASONS WHY MAN OUGHT TO STUDY THE BIBLE

1. That we might know the will of God -- John 7:17; Matt. 7:21; Eph. 5:17
   
   (1) God holds man responsible for knowing His will -- Rev. 10:12; John 12: 48
2. That we might handle it aright or rightly divide it -- II Tim. 2:15
3. Because the Word of God contains all the spiritual light and revelation the world has ever known -- Psa. 119:105; 119:130
4. In order to have Faith -- Rom. 10:17; John 20: 30 - 31
5. In order to be saved -- 2 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15 - 16
6. In order to grow spiritually -- I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5: 12 - 14
7. In order to be corrected and instructed -- 2 Tim. 3: 16 - 17
8. To show ourselves approved unto God -- 2 Tim. 2:15

II. WHAT ARE THE PROPER DIVISIONS OF GOD'S WORD?

1. The Bible is divided into TWO great parts.
   
   (1) The Old Testament -- II Cor. 3:14; Heb. 8:13
      
      1. 39 Books in the Old Testament
2. TWO religious dispensations
   
   (1) The Patriarchal dispensation -- from Adam to Mount Sinai, and the giving of the Law of Moses -- a period of 2500 years.
   
   (2) The Mosaical dispensation-- from the giving of the Law on Sinai to the Cross -- a period of 1500 years.
   
   (2) The New Testament -- II Cor. 3:6
      
      1. 27 books
3. The New Testament was sealed with the blood of Christ at the cross, and its terms were set forth on Pentecost -- Acts 2

2. The Law of Moses never was intended to apply to any except the house of Jacob -- those who came out of bondage in Egypt -- Ex. 20: 2 - 3; Heb. 8:9

   (1) Why was the Law of Moses given? Gal. 3:19; Rom. 7:7
   (2) How long was the Law to last? Gal. 3:19; 3:16


4. The nature of the Law of Moses:
   (1) Weak -- Rom. 8:3
   (2) To be fulfilled -- Matt. 5:17
   (3) Temporary -- Gal. 3:19
   (4) Could not provide complete forgiveness -- Heb. 10: 1 - 4
   (5) Imperfect -- Heb. 8:7

5. When the Law of Moses had served its purpose, God removed it.
   (1) Eph. 2: 14 - 15
   (2) Col. 2:14
   (3) Rom. 7:4
   (4) Heb. 7:12
   (5) Heb. 10:9
   (6) Gal. 3: 24 - 25

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF MIXING THE OLD AND NEW LAW

1. Christ will profit you nothing -- Gal. 5:2

2. Ye are a debtor to do the whole law -- Gal. 5:3

3. Ye are fallen from Grace -- Gal. 5:4

IV. CERTAIN QUESTIONS THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS RAISE

1. WHO is speaking?
   1. Is it Moses?
   2. Is it Abraham?
   3. Is it the prophets?
   4. Is it Christ or the Apostles?

2. To WHOM is he speaking?
   1. To Adam?
   2. To Abraham?
3. To Israel?
4. To people who are not Christians?
5. To Christians?
6. To the church?

3. In what age or dispensation is he speaking?
   1. Part of the Bible records what God said to the Patriarchs:
      (1) Noah
      (2) Abraham
      (3) Jacob
      (4) Joseph
   2. Part of the Bible records what God said to Israel -- the Law of Moses
   3. Part of the Bible, the New Testament, is addressed to people today:
      (1) What a sinner must do to be saved.
      (2) What an erring child of God must do.
      (3) What a Christian must do.

CONCLUSION
1. Are you properly dividing the Word of God?
2. Have you heard what God is saying to you today?
3. The plan of Salvation:
   (1) Hear -- Rom. 10:17
   (2) Believe -- Mark 16:16
   (3) Repent -- Luke 13:3
   (4) Confess -- Rom. 10:10
   (5) Be Baptized -- Acts 2:38; 22:16

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