

WHAT IS MID-ACTS PAULINE DISPENSATIONAL ... ARE WE A CULT?

"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

~ 1 Timothy 1:16

1. What's in a Name

- a. To some we sound like a cult – why? We quote Bible and say things contrary to tradition
- b. When people are ignorant of Bible/history/doctrine they don't understand you
- c. We have no denomination – so we are plagued with false or inadequate labels
 - i. Ultradispensational, hyper-grace, right-dividers, Bereans, grace believer, etc.
 - ii. Looking up these names will not describe us adequately... we are Christians, right?
- d. Can we be Baptist, Pentecostal, Evangelical, and still be Pauline? (No.)

2. What is Mid-Acts Pauline Dispensational Right Division...

- a. The major impact of mid-Acts is ecclesiological (relating to the church) – (Scofield Eph 3:6)
 - i. "Ambassadors" is mentioned by Paul about our mission – 2Cor 5:20, Eph 3:9, 6:20
- b. Mid-Acts - An important description that you never want to show someone
 - i. In contrast to Red Letters, Pentecost, Acts 28;
 - ii. When this dispensation began - 1Co 9:17, Acts 9:15, 26:16
- c. Dispensational – God's revelation is to be understood progressively - Heb 1:1, Eph 3:2-4
 - i. Systematic theologies are weak in this area, preferring a unified approach
- d. Right Division – which speaks generically to how we choose our matching orders
 - i. It may become significant when it comes to preservation (KJB) – 2 Tim 2:15
- e. Pauline – If there is one thing that sums up our uniqueness it is this
 - i. The Lord made Paul our pattern - 1 Tim 1:16, Eph 3:8, 1 Cor 4:16, 11:1, Phi 3:17
 - ii. You have to be prepared for the Jesus vs. Paul issue = "Jesus sent Paul"

3. Handling the Questions with Grace

- a. "Are you a cult?" – No. Christology, Bibliology, Iheology, Soteriology is not changed.
 - i. Cults corrupt the fundamentals, we do not. We strengthen them. 2Co 11:4, 11:20
 - ii. We preach liberty, Biblical authority, personal responsibility, and allow questions
- b. "Who else teaches this?" Everyone and no one.
 - i. Paul has influenced every branch of Christianity to degrees – even now
 - ii. No one has prioritized Paul's pattern and epistles as the practice for the church
- c. "Where did you go to school?" Why have I never heard this before?
 - i. Study history: dispensational right division is not new, but has been misused
- d. "How can so many people be wrong?"
 - i. Everybody is wrong until they get it right; tradition \$\$\$; the cutting edge is small
- e. "Is it really that important? It sounds divisive, can't we just get along?"
- f. Being Pauline means you are no longer Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Evangelical, etc.