

# HOW TO TALK TO MY FRIENDS...

## ... WHEN THEY FAIL TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE

*"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..."*

~ *Philippians 3:8*

### 1. A New Series

- a. How to talk to your friends/evangelize about grace, failures to rightly divide, God's intervention, suffering/tragedy/evil, without being fake, offended, reckless, or obnoxious.
- b. Our motivation not to prove us right, argue, pour cold water, but → 1Tim 2:4, Eph 3:9

### 2. When Friends Fail to Rightly Divide

- a. Acts 18:24-28 – Here is a man that failed to rightly divide
- b. *Failures*: God can do anything, by his stripes, faith w/o works is dead, wait on the Lord, Lord's prayer, accept Jesus, draw near, find your gift, God's anointed, throne of grace, etc
- c. How to respond wrongly: 1) Silence (is acceptance?); 2) God's instrument of holy wrath;
- d. 3) "You gotta rightly divide!" Be careful: we do not to trust a system, we trust a Saviour
  - i. You might need glasses to see, but that does not teach you how to drive.
  - ii. Right division acknowledges the separation of Prophecy/Mystery, Peter/Paul
  - iii. Dispensational Bible study teaches that the Bible is progressively revealed.
  - iv. Right division gives people a "system" to pick this over that, but why?
  - v. Right division makes it clear, but what follows clarity is focus and understanding
  - vi. Right division is not our message, we don't preach the mystery, but "what is"...
- e. We preach Christ ... according to the revelation of the mystery – Col 1:27-28, 2 Cor 5:17

### 3. Preaching Christ (more perfectly)

- a. Acts 18:24-28 → they 1) had knowledge, 2) they expounded it more perfectly
- b. Paul says, the knowledge of Jesus Christ (acc. to the mystery) is excellent – Phil 3:8
- c. Law was excellent (Rom 2:17-18), then the NT (Heb 8:6), but now... Ph 1:9-10
- d. Every failure to rightly divide is a diminishing of Christ and the preaching of the cross.
- e. Christians want "God's best", then don't recoil in horror, give it to them.
  - i. Healing → There is a greater hope than healing, hope in the Lord Jesus Christ
  - ii. Easter suffering, lent → Christ is risen... acc. to Paul's gospel - 2Ti 2:8, Eph 1:19
  - iii. Asking forgiveness → Christ has forgiven you all trespasses – Col 2:13, Eph 4:32
  - iv. God's anointed, find a place in the kingdom, draw near → You are Christ's body!
  - v. Spiritual gifts, daily bread, throne of grace → All spiritual blessings in Christ – Eph 1:3, we have the unsearchable riches of God's grace - Eph 3:8
  - vi. God's still working on me → You are complete in Christ! Col 2:10
  - vii. Faith without (your) works is dead → Christ did all the work for me!
  - viii. Show the love of Jesus → Rom 5:8, through the preaching of the cross!
  - ix. Waiting on God's will → Christ made it known! Eph 1:9-10
- f. If you get blessed from objects, days, feelings, priests, you are not getting it from Christ.
- g. If you there is something else God has for you, then you are not complete in Christ.
- h. Phil 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always – our message is Christ and him crucified – 1Cor 2:2
- i. When they fail to rightly divide, talk about the glory of Christ and his cross – Gal 6:14