

Episode #625 The Why Question 10: Dividing the Word

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. If Christ’s death on the cross, burial, and resurrection were all that was necessary for God to redeem the earth from the mess it is in and make it the way He always intended it to be, then why, now that Christ has done this, does God still delay in bringing in His kingdom? If Christ’s death was all that was necessary to fix everything, then why didn’t He do so long ago?

A. In the book of Acts, we see God moving His kingdom forward, and it looks like it will quickly take over the earth. Yet something seemed to change, and now we do not see God powerfully working to bring in His kingdom.

B. God is not doing much to stop evil and ensure the victory of good. Sir Robert Anderson in *The Silence of God* said, “The Divine history of the favored race for thousands of years teems with miracles by which God gave proof of His power with men, and yet we are confronted by the astounding fact that from the days of the apostles to the present hour the history of Christendom will be searched in vain for the record of a single public event to compel belief that there is a God at all.”

C. Why does God not openly demonstrate Himself today?

III. We must divide God’s work and His Word to discover just what it is God is doing today.

A. II Timothy 2:15. The diligent student who seeks God’s approval must rightly divide the word of truth.

1. The idea of diligence (old *King James* “study”) is to work at a thing like an apprentice seeking to learn from a master.

2. The word for “rightly dividing” is *orthotomeo*, to cut it straight. Paul was a tentmaker, and cutting straight is critical in tentmaking. So we must divide the Bible, not to throw pieces out, but to put every piece in its right place.

B. Luke 4:16-21. The Lord Jesus shocked the Jews in the synagogue. Why? If we read Isaiah 61:1-2 we find out why: He divided the passage in the middle of a sentence!

C. Luke 9:3 must be divided from Luke 22:35-36. Christ’s later command negates His earlier command.

IV. A careful study of the New Testament indicates that there is a second major turning point in the New Testament after the cross.

A. Matthew 6:14-15 gives one great paradigm for forgiveness, but Ephesians 4:32 gives a completely different one!

B. Romans 11:13-25 says that the Gentiles are mere wild branches grafted into Israel’s good olive tree, yet Ephesians 3:6 says the Gentiles are joint and equal with Israel. Both must be true, being God’s Word, but both cannot be true of the same group of people at the same time.

V. Conclusion: The death of Christ on the cross was all that was needed to change the world and bring in God’s kingdom. However, a study of the New Testament reveals there was a second turning point after this, when God’s work changed. We will see if we can discover the where, when, and how of this in our next study.