

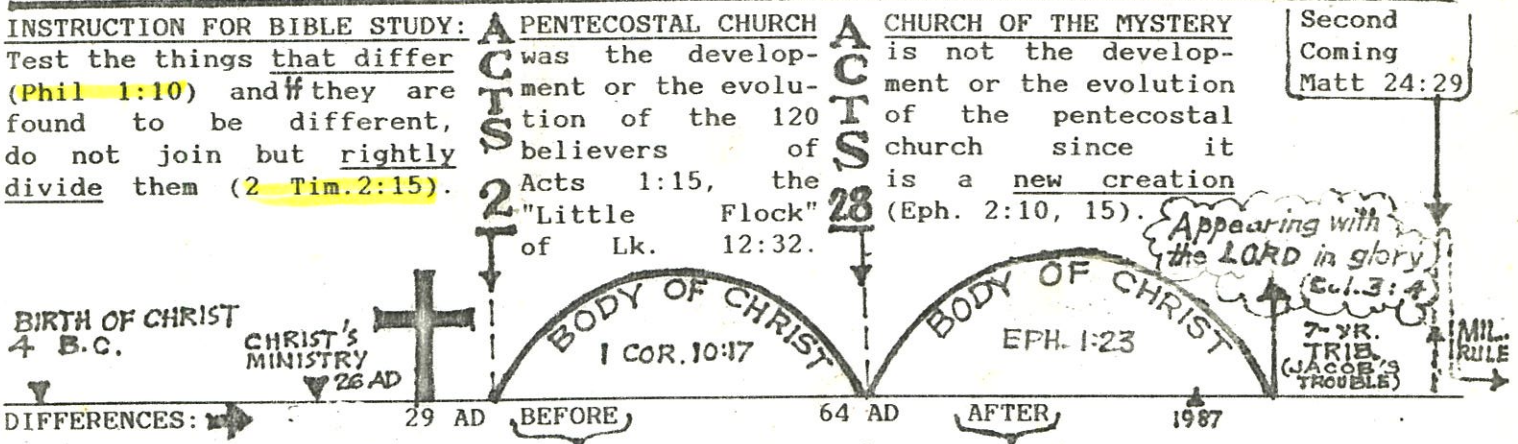
For All Men See

THE TRUTH FOR US TODAY

WHAT "CHURCH" is true for us today, our present dispensation? HOW is GOD dealing with the nation of Israel (Jews), His "chosen people" (Gen. 12:2-3; 32:28; Ex. 6:7), and the Gentiles (non-Jewish)?

ACTS 28:28- "Be it known therefore unto you that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and they will hear it."

The Bible--the Word of God--clearly shows that there are TWO "Bodies of Christ" (churches)--one BEFORE Acts 28:28 (2 Cor. 11:2) and another AFTER Acts 28:28 (Eph. 1:22; 4:4).



DIFFERENCES:	BEFORE (29 AD)	AFTER (64 AD)
1. PROGRAM:	PROPHECY- spoken by the prophets (Acts 2:15; 3:21, 24; 26:22).	MYSTERY-in other ages was not made known to the sons of men (Eph. 3:5).
2. LORD'S TITLE:	KING on David's throne (Acts 2:30).	HEAD of the Church, His Body (Eph 1:22).
3. LORD'S MINISTRY:	to the Jews (Rom. 15:8; Matt. 15:24).	among the GENTILES (Col. 1:27).
4. PAUL'S MINISTRY:	Minister of the New Covenant which is for the Jews (2Cor 3:6; Heb. 8:8; Jer.31:31).	PRISONER of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Gentiles as the minister of God's Secret Program, THE MYSTERY (Eph. 3:1-9).
5. OBJECT OF PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT:	For the Hope of Israel (Acts 28:20).	To make known THE MYSTERY (Eph. 6:19, 20).
6. SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS:	From (SINCE) the foundation of the world (Matt 25:34).	BEFORE the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).
7. DESTINATION:	EARTH (Matt 5:5; 6:10).	HEAVEN (Eph. 1:3; 2:6).
8. HOPE/CONDITION:	Second COMING (PAROUSIA) of the Lord (Matt 24:29-31; 1Thess 4:14-17). APOSTASY must first occur before the Second Coming (2 Thess. 2:1-4).	Glorious APPEARING (EPIPHANIA) with the Lord in Glory (Col. 3:4; Titus 2:13). NONE for the Lord is at hand (Phil 4:5), i.e., any moment Appearing.
9. BLESSING:	With Abraham on EARTH (Gal. 3:9,29; Gen 15:18). The Hope of the faithful overcomers is the New Jerusalem which is their Mother (Gal. 4:26; Rev. 21:2; Heb. 11:10; 12:22, 23). Besides God, Abraham was their Father (Rom. 4:1).	WITH Christ in HEAVEN (Eph 1:3; 2:6). NO CONNECTION with Abraham whose name does not appear even once in any of the seven epistles of Paul which were written after Acts 28. Has NO Mother and has only ONE God and Father (Eph 4:6).
10. DESCRIPTION:	Chaste Virgin to be espoused to Christ (2Cor 11:2) and will be the BRIDE of Christ (Rev. 19:7; 21:2)	One New MAN (Eph 2:15) whose HEAD is the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 1:22). (NOTE: MAN CAN NEVER BE A BRIDE!)

11. <u>BAPTISM:</u>	THREE (Water Spirit and Baptism with the Lord's death)- Acts 2:38; Acts 19:5,6; Rom. 6:3,4.	ONE (Baptism with the Lord's death)- Eph 4:4; Col 2:12.
12. <u>GIFTS:</u>	1Cor 12:28- 1st Apostles, 2nd Prophets, 3rd Teachers then miracles, healing helps, govt., and diversities of tongues. Some are "sign" gifts.	Eph 4:11- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers. These are "ministerial" gifts. (NOTE: Rankings and the sign gifts are omitted.)
13. <u>EXPECTATION OF PAUL:</u>	Still alive to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess 4:17).	Ready to be offered and his departure (death) was at hand (2Tim 4:6).
14. <u>RESURRECTION:</u>	At the Lord's Coming (1Cor 15:23). Resurrection to reign (Rev 20:6).	Out - resurrection from among the dead (Phil 3:11-"exanastasis ek nekron").
15. <u>JEWS' POSITION</u>	Jews were FIRST (Rom 1:16; 2:9, 10). Reasons-Deut 28:13; Rom. 9:4,5; Rom 3:2.	EQUAL with the Gentiles for they are joint heirs and joint partakers in a joint body (Eph 3:6).
16. <u>GENTILES' POSITION:</u>	Considered as WILD OLIVE grafted to Israel's Olive tree which is the source of its blessing (Rom 11:17,18).	NOT RELATED with Israel (Eph 2:12). Israel is "Lo-ammi" (Not God's people, Hos 1:9; 3:4). Considered as members of Christ's Body (Eph 5:30).
17. <u>GENTILES' IDENTIFICATION:</u>	reckoned as Abraham's Seeds and heirs (Gal 3:29).	Takes the Identity of the Lord- "CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL" (Cor 3:11).
18. <u>GENTILES' SALVATION:</u>	To provoke Israel to jealousy (Rom 11:11). This implies that Israel was not yet alienated from God since divorced people do not provoke each other to jealousy.	To show the exceeding riches of God's grace and His manifold wisdom (Eph 2:7; 3:10). The Church, His Body, is the fulness of Christ and Christ is the fulness of God (Eph 1:23, Col 2:9).
19. <u>GENTILES' OBLIGATIONS:</u>	To assist Israel since they were partakers of Israel's spiritual things (Rom 15:27). Example was the offering for the Jews in 1Cor 16:1-3	No obligation since they have no connection with Israel (Eph 2:12). Assistance is to be given to anyone who is in need (Phil 4:14-18) especially God's laborers (Phil 4:3).
20. <u>ORDINANCES & FEAST DAYS CONCERNING THE GENTILES:</u>	Should be kept such as the Lord's Supper (1Cor 11:2,23,24) and the Passover (1Cor 5:7,8) and the Decrees in Acts 15:19-21.	Ordinances, Feast Days and Decrees are not to be observed since these were already blotted out and nailed to the Cross (Eph 2:15; Col 2:14,16).
21. <u>COMMISSION:</u>	To witness in Jerusalem in Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).	To make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery (Eph 3:9).
22. <u>MEMBERS CAN BE:</u>	a. part of the head as ears and eyes (1Cor 12:16,17). b. feeble, less honourable and uncomely (1Cor 12:22,23).	Only the Lord is the Head (Col 1:18). Members are parts of the Body (Eph 5:30). glorious, without spot, holy, and without blemish (Eph 5:27).
23. <u>OTHER VISIBLE DISTINCTIONS SUCH AS THEIR:</u>	a. <u>CONGREGATION</u> -Churches of the Gentiles (Rom 16:4) vs Churches in Judea (Jews)- Gal 1:22. b. <u>APOSTLES</u> -James Peter and John to the Circumcision while Paul and Barnabas to the Gentiles (Gal 2:9).	NO DISTINCTION. In fact, the word "CHURCHES" is not mentioned in any of the epistles of Paul the apostle for Gentiles. Not even one of the Twelve Apostles appear in any of Paul's epistles after Acts 28, namely, Eph, Col, Phil, Tit, Philem 1&2 Tim. which contain dispensational truths for us today. Only ONE Gospel

- c. GOSPEL-Gospel of the Circumcision (Gal 2:7). since Jews and Gentiles were reconciled unto God into ONE BODY by the Cross (Eph 2:16).
- d. TEMPLE WORSHIP- Jews were separated from the Gentiles by means of a wall and no Gentile was allowed to go beyond it (Acts 21:28, 29). The Middle Wall of partition, the symbol of enmity between Jews and Gentiles, was broken down (Eph 2:14). Both have access to God through the Lord by One Spirit (Eph 2:18).

24. HEAVEN IS THE DISTINCT MARK OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS HIS (CHRIST) BODY (Eph 1:22,23).
ITS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. BLESSING is in HEAVEN (Eph 1:3). | G. MINISTRY is also in HEAVEN (Eph 3:10). |
| B. SEAT is in HEAVEN (Eph 2:6). | H. WARFARE is in HEAVEN (Eph 6:12). |
| C. KINGDOM is in HEAVEN (Col 1:12, 13). | I. HOPE is in HEAVEN (Col 1:5). |
| D. HEAD is in HEAVEN (Eph 1:20-23). | J. AFFECTION is in HEAVEN (Col 3:2). |
| E. LIFE is in HEAVEN (Col 3:3). | K. DESTINY is in HEAVEN (Col 3:4). |
| F. CITIZENSHIP is in HEAVEN (Phil 3:20). | L. CROWN is in HEAVEN (2 Tim 4:18). |

The Holy Spirit speaking through the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

The "word of truth" is the Bible.

"Rightly dividing" comes from the Greek ORTHOTOMEIO (the original language in which the New Testament was written) which also means "rightly handling"; "correctly analyzing"; "accurately dividing" or "set straight." It means not only to give the true meaning but also the true application to the various TIMES and CLASSES of people in various WAYS. Biblical truths must be divided according to fundamental, prophetic, and DISPENSATIONAL truths.

In interpreting a verse in the Bible the following has to be considered: what is written about; who wrote it; to whom written; with what words; when written; the purpose and circumstances of writing; what precedes and what follows (for context). The literal and grammatical structure of the original language and Figures of Speech used must be observed. The cultural, historical and geographical background of the books must also be taken into consideration.

Paul is the leading apostle for our present dispensation--not Peter. Paul is the apostle for us, Gentiles; while Peter, James, John and the rest of the twelve disciples are the apostles for the Jews. Paul said so himself. (Gal. 2:7-9; Rom. 11:13; Eph. 3:8).

The specific teachings or "instructions" for the present Dispensation are contained in the Apostle Paul's epistles written after the incident in Acts 28:28, namely: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians Titus, Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy.

This does not mean that we do not have to read the whole Bible. We must. For Fundamental and Prophetic truths are found in or transcends through all dispensations such as the fact of Creation, love of, faith in, and obedience to God. Sin. Death. Salvation. Love of fellowmen, etc. We can learn how God is dealing with various classes of people in various times and how these relate to us today. We will know more about the Messiah (Christ) who is the central figure of the Bible from the beginning to the end--from Genesis to Revelation!

In unmistakable language, Paul says in Ephesians 3:8-9: "Unto me...is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ...to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God...."

This must explain Peter's remark when he said that the letters of Paul "according to the wisdom given unto him" speak of things "hard to understand, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do^{also} the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." (2 Pet. 3:15-16).

The "fellowship of the mystery" that the Apostle Paul preached concerns our PRESENT DISPENSATION. Let all men see.

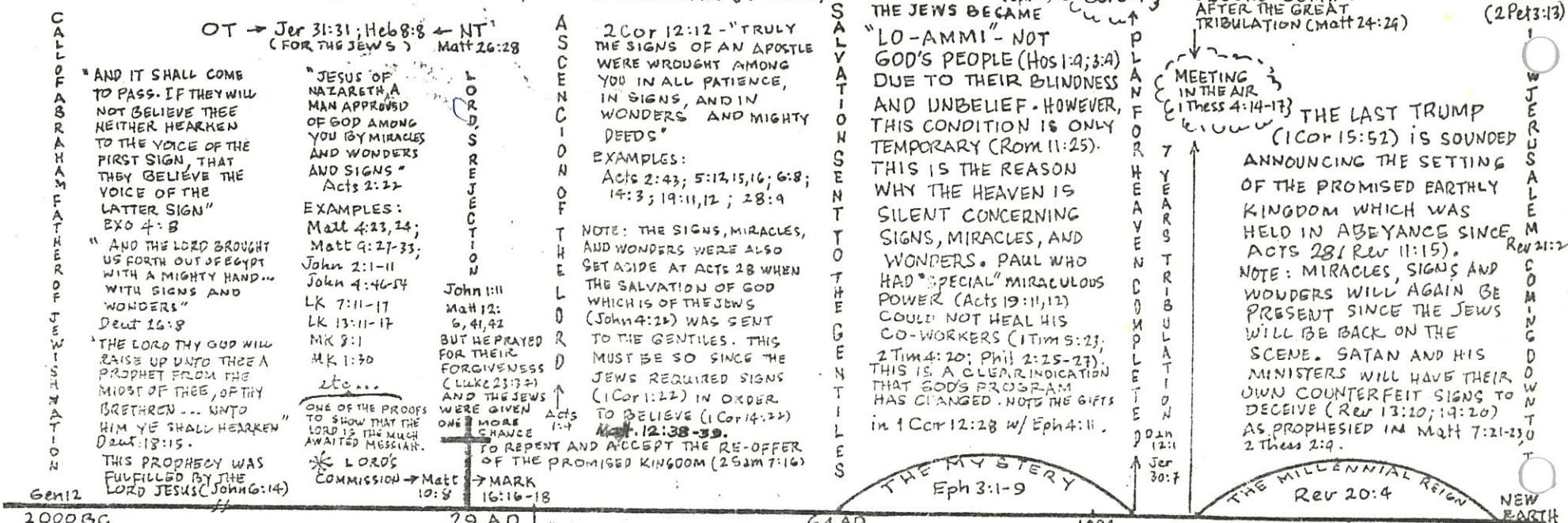
* Million thanks to Bro. Art Watkins whose article, The One New Man, made this study possible. (Published in "Plainer Words").

* OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: (Prepared by Bros. Art Lorenzo & Jun Maravillas) Metro-Manila, Philippines
Tel. 731-68-97 Tel. 731-02-61

1-30-87

RIGHT DIVISION (2Tim 2:15) SOLVES TODAY'S CONFUSION ON SIGNS, MIRACLES & WONDERS.

PROPHESIED (Acts 3:21,24): EARTHLY PLAN (Matt 5:5) SUSPENDED A UNPROPHESIED (Eph 3:5) RESUMPTION OF THE SUSPENDED
 Heb. 1:1; 2:3,4 - GOD HAD SPOKEN IN DIVERS MANNER AND PLAN FOR HEAVEN (Eph 1:3) EARTHLY PLAN (Hos 1:10; 3:5; 6:2)
 BORNE WITNESS WITH SIGNS AND WONDERS THROUGH THE USHERED IN. CAPPEARING IN GLORY (Col 3:4)
 PROPHETS, HIS SON, THOSE WHO HEARD (APOSTLES) 28 THE JEWS BECAME "LO-AMMI" - NOT GOD'S PEOPLE (Hos 1:9; 3:4) DUE TO THEIR BLINDNESS AND UNBELIEF. HOWEVER, THIS CONDITION IS ONLY TEMPORARY (Rom 11:25). THIS IS THE REASON WHY THE HEAVEN IS SILENT CONCERNING SIGNS, MIRACLES, AND WONDERS. PAUL WHO HAD "SPECIAL" MIRACULOUS POWER (Acts 19:11,12) COULD NOT HEAL HIS CO-WORKERS (1Tim 5:27; 2Tim 4:20; Phil 2:25-27). THIS IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT GOD'S PROGRAM HAS CHANGED. NOTE THE GIFTS IN 1 Cor 12:28 w/ Eph 4:11.



NOTE: SIGNS ARE FOR THE UNBELIEVERS (1 Cor 14:22) AND FOR THE EVIL AND ADULTEROUS GENERATION (Matt 12:39).

1. CASTING OUT DEMONS - Acts 16:16-18
 2. SPEAKING IN TONGUES - Acts 2:4; 10:46
 3. TAKING UP SERPENTS - Acts 28:3-7
 4. HEALING - Acts 5:15-17; 28:8, 9
 5. DRINKING POISON - NO RECORD
- NOT EVEN ONE OF THESE SIGNS IS FOUND IN ANY OF PAUL'S SEVEN EPISTLES AFTER ACTS 28 (Eph, Col, Phil, Titus, Philem, 1 & 2 Timothy)

OPEN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
 2492-B. P. VILLANUEVA ST.
 PASAY, METRO MANILA, PHIL.
 TELEPHONE NO 831-95-37

* WITH REGARDS TO: A) TODAY'S DIVINE OR FAITH HEALING - SATAN CAN INFLICT DISEASES (Job 2:6,7; Luke 13:11-13; 2 Cor 12:7) AND, OF COURSE, HE CAN ALSO REMOVE THEM (Matt 7:21-23). GOD HEALS THROUGH HIS MERCY WITHOUT USING MINISTERS (Phil 2:25-27).
 * B. WALK - IT SHOULD BE BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT (2 Cor 5:7) - "BLESSED ARE THEY THAT HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET BELIEVED" John 20:29.