February 2014 News Topic

**"Sticks and Stones"**

Have you ever had a “friendly” Biblical doctrinal discussion with someone,  only to have them resort to “name calling” when they were unable to support their position with scripture?  I have to admit that it does get a little frustrating.  I have some very good brothers in the Lord who say that they are dispensationalists but not “**hyper**” or “ **Ultradisspensationalists**.”  Well isn’t that just nice! These are the “names” though, that they apply to me and let me tell you why.

Being a Grace believer, I understand the importance of “rightly dividing the Truth” (II Tim.2:15) and realize that **doctrine** must come from the **instructions** given to us **from the risen Lord by the apostle** that was sent to us( the Gentiles); the apostle **Paul**.  These doctrines, then,  should come from the books of **Romans through Philemon**.  Here is where my friends like to accuse me of “not using the entire Bible.“  Not so!  I would like to refer them to II Tim.3:16 which says “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”  Sadly, many good people fail to realize that our doctrinal instructions come from the writings of the apostle Paul.  Unfortunately, this results in some unscriptural practices being adopted and, in some cases, a “confusing gospel” being declared.  Oh if only my friends would just rightly divide the entire Bible.

Believing that water baptism has no part in the church age, believing that the so called “great commission” was not given to us , will get you moved to the front page of the hyperdisspensationalist” or “ Ultradisspensationalist”  list in my church. I have tried more than once to discuss these two doctrines with church leaders but to no avail.  They seem to be very much aware of the work of the Berean Bible Society and the works of C.R.Stam but choose to label these individuals and organizations as “Hyperdisspensationalists”  rather than make any effort to calmly dispute or discuss their position with scripture.  What are they afraid of?  How I wish that our leaders today would “ rightly divide the Truth”    ( the whole Truth);  emphasize that we need to be fulfilling our God given roles as an ambassadors of Christ in telling folks of their need to be reconciled to God( Romans 8:23) and that believing  Christ died on the cross for their sins, was buried for three days and then arose, accomplishes this(I Corinthians 15:2-3);and lastly, advance the doctrines given us from the Lord through the apostle Paul that says “there is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism (when the Holy Spirit places the believer into the body of Christ), One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4: 4-6).

I realize that extremists do exist who promote doctrines which are not supported by scripture. However, to excuse yourself from searching the scriptures by simply casting someone in a “bad light’” is tragic.  **Pride,**  and  **traditions of men,** I believe**,** are the two main reasons that keep  good people from seeing the **WHOLE** Truth.  Sadly, so many of our church leaders today fail to see the importance of adhering to the teachings of the apostle Paul and in doing so fail to give clear concise direction and learning to their congregations.  We, as ambassadors, should continue to pray that God will open their eyes and hearts and give them the courage to rightly divide the Truth.

Yours in Christ…..Phil