

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

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November 5, 2023

### ***“Handling Aright The Word Of Truth”***

By R J Evans

The Apostle Paul told Timothy to be *"a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). The American Standard Version of the Bible says *"handling aright the word of truth."* In this short article, let us notice how not to handle the truth, and then, how to handle it aright or properly.

#### HOW NOT TO HANDLE THE WORD OF TRUTH

##### **1. Don't be ashamed of it.**

Paul suffered continually for the gospel's sake because he wasn't ashamed of it (Romans 1:16). Many people try to be "closet Christians," ashamed for others to know that they are Christians. We must be willing to suffer hardship for the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8).

##### **2. Don't pervert it.**

Paul denounced those in Galatia who perverted (changed to a wrong purpose) the gospel (Galatians 1:7). Some wrest or twist the scripture to their own destruction (2 Peter 2:16). Those who tamper with the truth mishandle it and commit spiritual suicide!

##### **3. Don't misapply it.**

Understand and make the proper applications of scripture. For example, make the proper distinction or division between the law of Moses and the gospel of Christ, between the Old Testament and the New Testament. It would be wrong to apply the Law of Moses, such as the laws of circumcision, animal sacrifices, the burning of incense, etc. to New Testament Christians today. Paul told those in Galatia who were attempting to be justified by the Law of Moses--- *"you have fallen from grace"* (Galatians 5:4).

## HOW TO HANDLE THE WORD OF TRUTH ARIGHT

### **1. Obey it.**

The gospel is not for us to read and forget, but to hear and obey (James 1:22-25). The Lord will condemn the disobedient at His coming (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

### **2. Defend it.**

Paul strongly defended it (Philippians 1:7, 16). Some are now saying it needs no defending, only proclaiming. However, proclaiming involves defending it. We must contend earnestly for the truth (Jude 3).

### **3. Hold fast to it.**

Once we have embraced the gospel, we must cling to it (1 Corinthians 15:1-2). If we drift away in neglect (Hebrews 2:1-3), or make shipwreck of the faith (1 Timothy 1:19), we are doomed! How awful to stand at the judgment with but a memory of faithfulness, long ago abandoned.

### **4. Live it.**

"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27). It isn't enough to be good professors; we must be good practitioners of the gospel. Do our neighbors, relatives, friends, work associates think highly of the gospel and the church or poorly because of our conduct? Give no one cause to call you a "hypocrite." Let your habits of life adorn sound doctrine (Titus 2:10).

### **5. Preach it.**

Jesus commanded that we preach the gospel everywhere because no one can be saved without it (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:16). Like Paul, we need to be "ready to preach the gospel" (Romans 1:15; 1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul told Timothy to "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2). The gospel wasn't given to be hoarded, but to be shared!

### **6. Love it.**

The Psalmist stated: *"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day"* (Psalm 119:97). The importance of loving the truth is emphasized so much when we consider the consequences of not loving it. Notice carefully as Paul described "those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

There is nothing in all of the world comparable to the truth of the gospel. It is that unique message from heaven that reveals God's plan to redeem man from sin through His own Son. With what infinite and loving care God has given it to us and preserved it for us to this very hour! The Apostle Peter said *"the word of the Lord endures forever"* (1 Peter 1:25).

With what incomparable cost-the very blood of Jesus-was it certified and energized (Galatians 1:11; Hebrews 4:13; James 1:21). It is so important and precious to God that our attitude toward it gauges our attitude toward Christ Himself-"He who rejects Me and does not receive my words, has that which judges him-the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

**News and Notes:**

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Fred Johnson, Mary Ann Holley, Larsen Plyler, Willis Fields (Brandi Meade's Dad), Sam Kennemur (Upcoming surgery November 6th).

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	To Be Announced
<b>Preaching:</b>	Duston Coan
<b>Sermon #1:</b>	<i>To Be Announced</i>

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

<b>Workbook:</b>	Fred Johnson
<b>Author:</b>	1 & 2 Thessalonians
<b>Starting Page &amp; Question:</b>	Mark Mayberry <i>Page #56, Question # 1</i>

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

<b>Announcements:</b>	Russell Briggs
<b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b>	Danny Sheffield
<b>Scripture Reading:</b>	<i>Colossians 3:1-4</i>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Lee Busby
<b>Lord's Supper:</b>	Fred Johnson
<b>Assisting:</b>	— —
<b>Preaching:</b>	Duston Coan
<b>Sermon #2:</b>	<i>To Be Announced</i>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Adam Harris

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**November 8, 2023**

<b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>	Paul Busby
<b>Workbook:</b>	Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors
<b>Author:</b>	Max Tice
<b>Starting Page &amp; Question:</b>	<i>Page #43, Question #4</i>
<b>Invitation:</b>	Doug George
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Adam Harris
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Blake Briggs