

I realize that some people, and maybe one or two of you, think that some of us who teach and present studies tend to dwell on right division ad nauseam. And to your defense I will admit that sometimes I grow tired of hearing myself broaching the subject but it usually is in conjunction with those individuals that do not want to listen or not just lacking an understanding of this tool or what sometimes seems to be avoidance.

**1Co 9:18 (KJV)** What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

**19** For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

**20** And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

**As it is his charge Paul, having desire to reach the Jews delivers the message of Christ. This is Paul's Everlasting desire to reach out and his hope for the Jews to hear and heed the message.**

**Ac 18:18 (KJV)** And Paul *after this* tarried *there* yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn *his* head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

**19** And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

**20** When they desired *him* to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;

**21** But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

**And here in order to reach the Jews Paul took a vow to present to them the message that he had been given to share with them. He aligned himself with them in order to show his sincerity.**

**Ac 18:28 (KJV)** For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

The question of what is written to us and what is beneficial for us, I am refraining from saying what is written for us because so many people have difficulty discerning the terms to us and for us, is summed up into to whom is the letter written. We can look at it

**from the standpoint as is the message contained therein beneficial to us even though it is not written to us.**

**Can the message in the Old Testament be beneficial to the Gentiles even though the Old Testament scriptures are written to the Jews?**

**Joh 2:17 (KJV)** And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

**18** Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

**19** Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**

**20** Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

**21** But he spake of the temple of his body.

**22** When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

**Mt 15:22 (KJV)** And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

**23** But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

**24** But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

**25** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

**26** But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.**

**27** And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

**28** Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

**Mr 2:23 (KJV)** And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn.

**24** And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?

**25** And he said unto them, **Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?**

**26** **How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?**

**27** And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:**

**28** **Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**

**Joh 8:1 (KJV)** Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*.

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

9 And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, **Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?**

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

**Mt 22:17 (KJV)** Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, **Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?**

19 **Shew me the tribute money.** And they brought unto him a penny.

20 And he saith unto them, **Whose is this image and superscription?**

21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.**

22 When they had heard *these words*, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

**Does this not give a good examples of sound reasoning by Jesus and in a way rightly dividing the situation?**

**Ec 9:5 (KJV)** For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

**Joh 11:25 (KJV)** Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

**26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

**Ro 14:7 (KJV)** For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

**1Co 15:51 (KJV)** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

**52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

**54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

**55** O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

**Why shall some not sleep? We shall not all die prior to Christ's return but shall be transformed from corruptible bodies to incorruptible.**

**2Co 5:6 (KJV)** Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

**7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

**8** We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

**9** Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

**The majority of the Corinthians had overcome their quarrelsome and sinful ways and returned to the teachings of Paul. Paul also emphasizes that the Holy Spirit brings life and not the condemnation of the old laws.**

### **Asleep in Christ**

**1Th 4:13 (KJV)** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

**14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

**15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

**16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**Da 12:2 (KJV)** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

**Lu 23:43 (KJV)** And Jesus said unto him, *Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

**Ec 12:7 (KJV)** Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

**1Co 15:14 (KJV)** And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

**15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

**16** For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

**17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.

**18** Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

**19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

**20** But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

**21** For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

**22** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

**24** Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

**25** For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

**26** The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

**Mt 17:1 (KJV)** And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

**2** And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

**3** And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

**4** Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

**5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

**6** And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

**7** And Jesus came and touched them, and said, **Arise, and be not afraid.**

**8** And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

**In as much that some people believe that when we die you're immediately Spirited Away to heaven it really goes against some of the scripture and it's not necessarily substantiated by other verses. for instance Matthew 17:3 and behold there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. One might ask shouldn't Moses and Elias be asleep in Christ? I would say to you the answer is in verse 8, and when they had lifted up their eyes they saw no man, save Jesus only. In verse two Jesus was transfigured and I say this gives you the basis for understanding that what Peter, James, and John saw was not of what their particular reality would support, rather it was a vision from within the reality in which the Son of God exists. And in For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **We see that the dead shall rise first. So when we read Ec 12:7 (KJV)****

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. **We are not told of a soul being returned to God we are told that the spirit of life that was breathed into us is returned unto God who gave it. that Breath of Life made us a living soul and to the dust is where that Soul shall return in sleep awaiting Christ.**

### The law of blood

**Ge 9:4 (KJV) But flesh with the life thereof, *which is* the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.**

**Le 17:10 (KJV) And whatsoever man *there be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people.**

**De 12:23 (KJV) Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood *is* the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh.**

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### The metaphor

**Joh 6:51 (KJV) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

**52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat?**

**53 Then Jesus said unto them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.***

**54 *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.***

**55 *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.***

**56 *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.***

**57 *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.***

**58 *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.***

**59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.**

**60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?**

**The consumption of blood was not allowed by virtue of the law but it was used in speak and not literally. Ultimately Jesus's blood and flesh was sacrificed - consumed of the world, some for salvation but not all to have eternal life.**

**Consumed by hatred  
consumed by fear  
consumed by jealousy  
consumed by indifference  
consumed by hubris**

**But for life  
consumed for His teachings  
consumed for His presence  
consumed for His sacrifice**

**1Co 9:19 (KJV) For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.**

**20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;**

**Ac 13:46 (KJV) Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.**

**47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.**

**48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.**

**49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.**

**50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.**

**Some make it a point that Acts 13 is the beginning for the message being delivered to the Gentiles and the Jews being placed in abeyance. I would contend that the Gentiles were already being grafted in by this point and the need to have the Jews reconsider, having been made jealous, did not have the broad reaching effect.**

**Ac 18:1 (KJV) After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;**

**2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.**

**3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.**

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus was Christ*.

6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook *his* raiment, and said unto them, Your blood *be* upon your own heads; I *am* clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

There are those that also lend belief to acts 18 being this starting point. But still the problem remains with acts 13 and acts 18 is all of the things that have to come to bear leading up to acts 28 without which would essentially be putting the cart before the horse.

Ac 28:26 (KJV) Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

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

In Acts 13 and Acts 18 we see a couple of instances where it is told to the Jews that the message will be given to the Gentiles but the full emphasis is not made at that time. Once we get to acts 28: 28 we see where the exclamation point is there and the specificity of what direction will be taken is there. This is the key difference between all three chapters.

To recap we spoke of what is written to us and what may not be written to us but is still beneficial for us. A letter that reaches your house may not be addressed to you but there may be information contained within that letter that would be beneficial for you.

We also visited the subject of being asleep in Christ and whether there was justification to believe that upon your death your soul is immediately conveyed to heaven.

Ps 146:4 (KJV) His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

Ec 12:7 (KJV) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Spirit- *rûwach*, *roo'-akh*

from H7306; wind; by resemblance breath

Not *nephesh*, which is soul

**Job 12:10 (KJV) In whose hand *is* the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.**

**Joh 5:21 (KJV) *For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.***

**We do have an instance here in Job where the separation of soul and breath is made. Therefore, Indicative of a point where the human soul is not immediately conveyed to heaven upon entering the grave.**

**1Th 4:14 (KJV) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

**We spoke of blood and its consumption, literally or metaphorically, being of great importance for it is life.**

**We spoke of being asleep in Jesus In the last enemy that He shall vanquish will be death.**

**Throughout this entire study the subjects visited were approached with a method of discernment spoken of in 2nd Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

**So in as much as some might say that an inordinate amount of time is spent on right division I would say that approaching study and the reading of scripture without such a tool is tantamount to trying to find your way without a compass. And that compass is knowledge and the wisdom that God bestows upon you is what you utilize to determine how to use that knowledge.**

**And with the understanding that is given in 2Ti 3:16 (KJV) All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**So in conclusion we come to a point where we circle back to understanding that not all scripture was written to everybody. However, it is safe to say that it is available to us and beneficial to us.**

