2 Tim.2,15 Rightly Divide the word of truth.

We are warned not to wrest, pervert, Gal.1,7--Change to a lie Ro. 1,25.-"Thou shalt neither add to or diminish ought from Gods word." We learn from Jn 17,17 that God's word is truth, also in Jn.8,32 Ye s shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. And in Jn.14,6 Jesus says I am the way, the truth, and the life. Another important fact to remember is Jn.1,17 The Law (of Moses) was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Grace and truth, the Gospel, the word of God are quite often used interchangeably.

I have known some to teach that the death of Christ is the dividing line, in rightly dividing the word of truth, But the fact is, that the death of Christ was the end of the Masaic law, and fifty days later was the beginning of the new covenant, as a covenant, or testament is of force after men are dead Heb.9,15-17.--Col,2,14 Blotting out the hand-writing (The old testament) of ordinances that was against us, that was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to hi cross,-- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness, to every one that believeth.--So let us not go back to the Law of Moses, to rightly divi de the word of truth, which went into effect after Christ's death, on t the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Christ's death. Being also the beginning of the new covenant, promised by Jer. 31,31 and referred to as fulfilled in Heb.8,8-13.

Let us therefore begin handling the WORD of TRUTH at the time that it went into effect.

Ac.2 the day of Pentecost, The Holy Ghost was poured out on the apostles, whom Christ had previously instructed as to His (The Holy Ghost) pOsition in the redemption and salvation of mankind We now ref fer to some of the things which the Holy Ghost was to, do, which some think is still in force after the plan of redemption has been reveal ed through the apostles by the Holy Ghost. Jn.14,26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things what-soever I have said unto you, (you, The apostles).--Jn.15,26 But when the comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me.--Jn.16,7 Nevertheless it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not comeunto you; but if I depart I will send Him unto you..and when He is come Hewill reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of Judgment.--Lu.24,49 Just before Christ ascended, He said, And behold I send the promise of the Father upon you, But tarry ye in the City of Jerusalen, until ye be endued with power from on high.--Ac.1,5 For John truely baptized you with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost, not many days hence. Vers 8 But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Ju dea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.--These promises concerning the Holy Ghost were made only to the apostles, And Paul was later included andmade the apostle to The Gentiles Ro.11 13. And gave the Apostler the power to reveal the plan of God, in redee -ming the human race from eternal destruction, As Paul writes in Eph.3,2-5. Whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowled edge in the mysteries of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto men, as is now revealed unto us by His holy apostles and prophets.

We now go to the second chapter of Acts and we find these mysteries being revealed as the Spirit gives the apostles utterance. The apostles were waiting as Christ commanded them, the Holy Ghost suddenly came on them, they began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance, Peter speaking, informed the Jews present that they had fulfilled the purpose of God in Crucifying the Son of God, that He had proved himself to be the Son of God by the signs and wonders which He haddone among t them, that He was conclusively proven to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. They believed it and cried, Men andbrethren, what shall we do? Peter answered Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for theremission of sins, and ye shall receive thegift of the Holy Ghost, for the promise is unto you and your dhildren, and all who afar off.--Here is where some stumble at the word, and say NO! NO Baptism has nothing to do with salvation. But does Repentance? Can uninspired men set aside the words of the apostles who were given the keys of the kingdom of heaven, power to bind and loose on earth and it be bound or loosed im heaven Mt.16,15-19./? And Jn.20 22,23 He breathed on them and saith unto them, Whosesoever sins ye remit they are remitted unto them; and whosesoever sins ye retain they are retained. We follow theapostles through the Acts of the apostles, and the epistles they wrote to tell us what to do to be saved and live a Godly and life acceptable life to God. 1 Cor.14,37 If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge, that the things that I write unto you. are the commandments of God.--2,Pe.3,1-2 This second epistle I now write unto you, both in which, I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the things spoken before by the prophets, and of the commandments of us the apostles of the Lord and saviour.

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Did not Peter say Repent and be baptized every one of you?Which is more important,repent or be baptized? Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish Lu.13,3.Jn.3,5 Verily,verily I say unto you,except a mann be born of water and the Spirit,he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.Lu.24,2 46And He said unto them,Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer,and to rise again the third day:and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem.Mk.16,15 And He s said unto them,Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature,he that believeth and is baptizwd shall be saved,but he that believeth not shall be damned.--Mt.28,18 And Jesus spake unto them,saying,All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.Go ye therefore and teach all nations,baptizing them in the name of the Father,and of the Son,and of the Holy Ghost--.These commands were given just before Christ ascended,and also just before the Holy Ghost was given to the apostles to guide them into all truth, which went into effect in Acts 2.Now let us see if the Apostles and earlypreachers of the Gospel complied with these directions.--Ac.2,38 Repent and be baptized every one of you,in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins--This command was given to the Jews who had crucified Christ,Did they obey?-Verse 41 Then they that Gladly receivd his word were baptized,and there was added unto them about three thousand souls.--Were they saved? Verse 47 And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.-- Now let us go to the eighth chapter of Act fifth verse,Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria,and preached Christ unto them.Verse 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God,and the name of Jesus Christ,they were baptized ,both men and women.We now go to the 9th chapter and read of the conversion of Saul who had been persecuting those who believed in Christ-But let us remember this was still in the childhood days of the church,and he was a chosen vessel to bear the name of Christ to the Gentile,kings and the children of Israel Verse15.and we turn to chapter 22,verse 16,as Anninias related the purpose of God in appearing to himand said unto him Now why tarriest thou.arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins.Did we hwar some one say that baptism has nothing to do with forgiveness of sin,or salvation?--Turn to 1 Pe 3,21,22 Comparing the saving of Noah to the conversion of man,When once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah,wherein few that is,eight souls were saved by water,the like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us. We now turn to Ac.11,14 As Peter relating the things which brought about the conversion of the household of corneleius(a Gentile) The angel said to Cornelieus --Send men to Joppa,and call for Simon,xnd whose surname is Peter;who shall tell kk thee words whereby thee and all thine house shall be saved.Now we not notice He shall tell thee words whereby thee and thy house shall be sav saved,which is related in the tenth chapter,Verse 34Then Peter opened his mouth and said,Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons,But in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him (Corneleius was a Gentile,and the Gospel had not been sent to them up to this time) Peter preached Christ to them, the Holy Ghost came on them,proving to the Jews that they were acceptable to God.--Verse 47 Peter said Can any man forbid water,that these should not be baptized,which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Did you notice,He commanded them to be baptized?Did you notice that that Paul was commanded to Arise and be baptized and wash away thy thy sins.?Ac.22,16.

And have you noticed that these commands were given by men who were directed by the Spirit of God?Can an unspired man set aside commands given by men who were inspired? Read Heb.2,1-2 Therefore we ought to givethe more earnest heed to the things we have heard,lest at any time we should let them slip.For if the word spoken by angels (The old testament)was steadfast,and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;Verse3 How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation;which at the first was spoken by the Lord,and was confirmed unto us by them that heaard HIm,God bearing them witness,both with signs and wonders,and with divers miracles,and gifts of the Holy Ghost,according to His own will.

The apostles were given these gifts to prove that God was revealing His will through them.No one today can perform the miracles that the apostles did,therefore arenot authorized of God to set aside or change what the Apostles wrote and taught. 1 Cor.14,37 If any man think himself to be a prophet,or spiritual,Let him acknowledge that t the things I write unto you are the commandments of God.--2 Cor.12,12 Truely the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

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Let us now review some of the things said,by inspired men,concerning Baptism. In Eph.4,5 Paul tells us that there is one Lord,one faith,one baptism.This statement was made after the baptism of the Holy Ghost had fulfilled its purpose Ac.2 and Ac 10. Mt.3,14-16 Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness.Ac.2,38 The Jews who crucified Christ were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. 1 Pe.3,21 Peter informs us "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us. Mk.16,16 He that believeth andis baptized shall be saved. Eph.5,26 The church is sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water by the word.Ac.22,16 Paul was told to arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins.

Other things that baptism does.Ro.6,3 Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Christ,were baptized into His death?Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,even so we also should walk in newness of life.Gal.3,27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.1 Cor 12,13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body(the Church) Ac2,47 And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Now tell me ,How does a person get into Christ if he is not baptized into Him?How do we go through the likeness of His death, burial and resurrection,if not by being baptized in the likeness of of His death,burial,and resurrection.?

We read in 2 Cor.5, 17 If a man be in Christ,he is a new creature.--We arise to walk a new life after baptism.--Ro.6,5 For if we have been planted in the likeness of His death,we shall be also i in the likeness of His resurrection.Knowing this,that our old man is crucified with with Him,that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

While Christ was on earth He performed many miracles,forgave some their sins,seemingly without any conditions,But after the new covenant went into effect,and the apostles began executing the new testament,by His authority,and guided by the Holy Ghost in laying do down the terms of His will,we find them requring conditions not mentioned in Christ's teaching.We read from 2.Cor 3,6 But our sufficiency is of God,Who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament,1 Cor.14,37 If any man think himself to be a prophet or Spiritual,let him acknowledge,that the things I write unto you are the commandments of God.How dare any one set aside these facts and substitute his own opinion of what God has revealed by His Holy apostles?

Another intrusion on Gods decrees is that women can teach or preach the gospel of Christ in the church.We have the record of women prophesying in the new testament.There is Philip's four daughters who did prophesy,Also the case of Apollos who was mighty in the scriptures,knowing only the baptism of John Ac.18,24-28/Acquillq and priscilla took him unto themselves and taught him the way of the Lord more perfectly.Also those women whom Paul refers to as his helpers.These examples are held upto us as proof that women can teach in the church.But we have the commands of Paul given after spiritual gifts ceased.And we have the commandment of Paul 1 Cor.14,34 Let your women keep silent in the churches:for it is not permitted unto them to speak,but they are commanded to be under obedience,as also saith the law and if they will learn anything,let them ask their husbands at home.verse 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet or Spiritual,let him acknowledge that the things I write unto you are the commandments of God.--Now let us turn to 1 Tim.2,11Let the women learn in silence with all subjection.But I suffer not a woman to teachnor usurp authority over the man,but to be in silence,For Adam was first formed,then Eve.And adam was not deceived,but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

Some think that the Holy Ghost will be sent on them as on the apostles in the beginning,and Spiritual gifts may be given as on the apostles;We must realize the purpose of Spiritual gifts as we read Eph.4,10-14He that descendedis the same also that ascended up far above all heavens,that He might fill all things.11 And He gave Some apostles,and some prophets,and some evangelists,and some pastors and teachers:*PURPOSE-For the perfecting of the saints,for the work of t the ministry,for the edifying of the body of Christ:HOW LONG?-Till we all come in the unity of the faith,and of the knowledge of the Son of God,unto a perfect man,unto the measure of the stature of Christ measure stature of Christ.At the time these Spiritual gifts w were in force,the written word was not.And the only way that the gospel was spread ,was by word and mouth,But after the New testament was was written,the Spiritual gifts ceased.Now let us turn to 1 Cor.13 8 After mentioning Spiritual gifts,Charity never faileth,but whether there be prophecy, they shall fail,whether there be tongues they shall they shall cease:whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away,for we know in part and we prophesy in part.but when that which is perfect is come ,then that which is in part shall be done away.

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Let us again read Eph.3,4 Whereby when ye read,ye may understand my knowledge in the mysteries of Christ,which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men,as is now revealed unto us by His holy apostles and prophets. 1 Cor 13,8 After mentioning spiritual gifts, FCharity never faileth,But whether there be prophesy,they shall fail, Whether there be tongues,they shall fxiky ceasc:whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away,for we know in part,and we prophesy in part:but when that which is in perfect is come,then that which is in part shall be done away.---WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME. When the new covenant was fully revealed,Spiritual gifts ceased."The law of the Lord is perfect,converting the soul."Jas 1,25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,and continueth therein,he being not a forgetful hearer,but a doer of the word,this man shall be blessed in his deeds.--2 Tim.3,16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God,and is profitable for doctrine,for reproof,for correction,and for instruction in righteousness,that the man of God may be perfect,throughly furnished unto all good works.--We here have the scriptures thoroughly furnishing us unto every good work,a perfect law of liberty,which will make the manof God perfect,And convert the soul.

Now the question arises,Is a persons conscience a safe guide?If so why the command "Study to shew thyself approved unto God,a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,rightly dividing the word of truth". These things write I unto you,hoping to come unto thee shortly,but if I tarry long,that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,which is the church of God,the ground and the pillar of the truth.Can a person know how to live the Christian life without learning the word of God,studying it,Give attention to reading it?-Why search the Scriptures Jn.5,39.?

There are those who claim to be able to talk in tongues,let us read again 1 Cor 13,8 But whether there betongues they shall cease. When?-when that which is perfect is come,-The perfect law of liberty. Do you know of any who handle serpents? Or who can drink any deadly thing and it not hurt them?Do you know of any who can raise the dead? One of the most common claims to Spiritual gifts is the gift of healing the sick,Paul at one time had the power to even raise the dead, Truely the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience in signs and wonders and mighty deeds 2 Cor12.12.--Ac.19,11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul,so that from his body were brought unto the sick,handkerchiefs or aprons,and the disease departed from them,and the evil spirits went out of them,If these gifts were still in force,why did Paul write to Timothy,Drink no longer water,but a little wine for thy stomach's sake,and thine oft infirmities? Why did he leave Trophimus at Miletum sick Tim.4,20?

The apostles were given these Spiritual gifts to confirm,or prove that the things they revealed,were of God,When Christ gave the commission to the apostles,to Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,He said these signs would follow them Mk.16,15-20 And they went forth,and preached every where,the Lord working with them,and confirming the word ,with signs following.-Heb.2,1 Therefore we ought give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard,lest at any time we should let them slip,For if the word spoken by angels(the old testament) was steadfast,and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward.How shall we escape,if we neglect so great salvation,which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord,and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him, God also bearing them witness with signs and wonders and with divers miracles,and gifts of the Holy Ghost,according to His own will.

And there are those who contend that they are His witnesses. Can any one in this age witness to the death burial and resurrection of Christ,Can they witness to the miracles He performed? In Ac.1,16, 26 The apostles choosing one to take Judas place-Must one be ordained to be a witness with us of His resurrection.One who had been with them from the time John baptized Him,until He was taken up from us. Can any one in this day testify that they were witnesses of the things Jesus taught,the miracles He performed,or His crucifixion,death, resurrection and ascension?Read Ac.10,37-42--Verse 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews,and in Jerusalem;whom they slew and hanged on a tree:Him God raised up the third day,and shewed Him openly;not to all the people,but unto witnesses chosen before of God,even to us who did eat and drink with Him adter He arose from the dead.And He commanded us to preach unto the people,and to testify that it is He who is ordained of God to be the judge of the quick and the dead.

Let us be guided by the things that His witnesses have revealed unto us through the scriptures.Let us give diligence to make