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It would be wrong to claim these instructions for our participation. You can understand the Bible if you follow Paul's advice and rightly divide it.

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You Can Understand the Bible

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In other words they think every verse in the Bible is written for their obedience today.

God revealed his Law in the Bible. Yet one place tells us that we are subject to it, while another tells us we are not under it. (See Mat 5:17 vs. Rom 6:14, and Deu 6:25 vs. Rom 10:4)

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What about the Sabbath day? In one section it is a commandment. In another the Lord of the Sabbath supersedes it. Yet on another we are not to let anyone judge us about it. ([Exo 20:10](#); [Mat 12:2](#); [Col 2:16](#))

Is our justification based on our works or not? ([Rom 4:5](#); [James 2:24](#))

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It is all too easy to see pastors and teachers making excuses, avoiding, or distorting the passages to try and reconcile them. What is needed is right division.

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This is called dispensational Bible study, and its method is described in scripture as “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). A new dispensation can change what we know about God’s will and how we respond. These changes must be marked clearly.

A common mistake in Bible study is reading future revelations into passages where it was not yet revealed. Also, future revelations can replace or change instructions given in older revelations.

Moses did not know the later promise made to David. Abraham knew nothing of water baptism by John the Baptist. Likewise, Peter did not need to follow the previous instructions to build an ark given to Noah. Instructions had changed.

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