**Rightly Dividing**

 **~ 2 Timothy 2:15**

**Prophecy vs Mystery**:

**Rom 16:25** – Paul preaches “the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began”

**Col 1:25-27 –** Paul’s ministry a dispensation of God given to him to reveal the mystery that was hid from all before. Much like Adam, Noah, Abraham, & Moses.

**Eph 3:2-5 –** Just like Col 1 Paul points out he has been given a dispensation that was never revealed before – a mystery God hid from all.

**Acts 3:19-21; Acts 2:14-17 –** Peter preaches “prophecy”. Things foretold & spoken only to Israel.

**Which Gospel**

**Lk 9:6 –** Went preaching “the gospel”

* **Vs 43-45 –** Jesus foretells His death “but they understood not this saying”
* **Lk 18:31-34 –** still do not understand or know (certainly didn’t teach of His death)

**Lk 24:10:11 –** The 11 apostles did not believe Jesus rose from the dead when told about it

* **Jn 20:1-10 –** Everyone 1st believed His body stolen, not resurrected.

**Jn 20:20-23 –** Sin not removed by believing in death & resurrection. 12 apostles (11 at this time) could retain the sin of people. Paul never taught this about himself.

**The Law & Circumcision**

**Acts 15:1, 4-6, 23-24 –** The 12 still teach the law & circumcision – note the people that came to the gentiles came from among the 12 (vs 24) & the 12 “came together to consider” if the gentiles must follow the law to be saved.

**Mat\_5:17 -** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

* **Gal 2:1-7 –** Paul must go explain what his gospel is. See also **Gal 1:11-12** for the source of Paul’s teaching.
* **Gal 3:1-2 –** Paul points out that the H.S. came unto them through their faith, not from following the law.

**The Law & Commissions**

**Mat 28:20 –** Jesus sends the 12 with instructions to teach the same thing He already commanded

* **Matt 23:1-3** – Jesus commands they follow the law & obey the priests
* **Matt 19:16-21** – Jesus tells rich man to follow the law for salvation
* **Mk 16:16** – Water baptism required for salvation under this commission **(**also **Acts 2:38**)

**2 Cor 5:11-21** – Our (the Body of Christ) commission. Holy Spirit baptism required for salvation under this commission (**Eph 4:4-6, 1 Cor 12:13, 1 Cor 1:17)**

**The Law & Sabbath (Holy Days)**

**Ex 12:16 –** Instructions to observe holy days began w/Israel at the time of Moses. **Ex 23:10-19** lists mosaic law concerning holy days.

* **Ex 16:23, 20:8, 31:15** – The sabbath was required
* **Matt 12:1-12** – Did Jesus abolish the sabbath during His earthly ministry?
* **Matt 28:1, Lk 23**:**56, Jn 20:1** – Jesus’ followers following sabbath laws at burial

**Gal 4:8-11, 21** – Paul instructs people to stop following the law of holy days.

* **Col 2:10-16** – The ordinances (the law) has been blotted out. We are complete.

**The Law & Dietary Restrictions**

Col 2:16 pointed out we are not to be judged on meat or drink, but the law forbade certain foods.

* **Ex 34:11-15** – food sacrificed to idols forbidden
* **Lev 11:4-11** – The law restricted unclean animals

**1 Cor 8:4-8** – Food does not commend us (aid us, or restrict us)

* **1 Tim 4:1-5** – There are no food restrictions for people. The exception is our liberty being a stumbling block to others who could sin because their conscience & lack of knowledge on this – see **1 Cor 8:9-13**

This is a partial list of the differences between “times past” (**the time of prophecy**) & the “but now” (**the time of mystery**) the apostle Paul speaks of. In this “day of grace” we find we are justified by faith apart from any works (**Eph 2:8-9, Rom 3:28, 11:6**) as compared to Israel – **Jas 2:21,24**.