

What has happened in my life's journey in the Lord has been times of death followed by times of growth. For 15 years I had been in a very close knit assembly with teachers that wrote studies that were so comprehensive, I spent many hours afterwards reading their work, and as time went on, I began thinking according to their own interpretation of the scriptures. It was more sophisticated than the text itself, but they knew Greek and Hebrew, and it was easy for me to think that what I didn't quite see, were shortcomings on my understanding.

Then it happened that my admiration of them was dashed to pieces as internal strife and personal situations were managed behind closed doors, and consequently, the eldership broke up. The group split, and we had no one to lead. We began doing bible studies together, and in time, I started reading and comparing scriptures using only the text, concordance, lexicons and Greek and Hebrew dictionaries.

A person visited our bible study and challenged our learned understanding of Romans. Who does he say he is writing to? Where is the Body whose hope is in the heavens? What hope(s) does he describe in Romans 15:4-13-to his audience, the Jews and Gentiles. What about this mystery in Romans 16:25? Paul tells us in the next verse that it is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets according to the commandment of the everlasting God, and made known to all nations for the obedience of faith, this can't be the mystery of Ephesians. Why did I not see these things before? 70 OT quotes in the book of Romans describing what is happening at this time, and what about the other books? 1&2 Corinthians, also written to the Jews and Gentiles.

What about the commandments from Peter, James and John in Acts 15:28-31 sent out with Paul and Barnabas. Paul expounds on these in Corinthians. Unleavened Bread, Passover, Firstfruits all mentioned as

the Jewish believers are still to be doing these until the Lord returns. How are the Gentiles to have fellowship with the Jews so they aren't violating Jewish laws? I began seeing which books mention the imminent return of the Lord, and which describe the hope for a Body where there is no distinctions, whose life is hid with Christ in God(Colossians and Ephesians), where His imminent return to earth is not expressed.

These differences were just a few things I've come to understand. But, I also see that the word is knowable to the believing ones who come to His word not assuming to know anything, but ready to be corrected.

2Timothy 2:24-26 "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." The opposing is out of man, and the truth is to be with full discernment. We need to pray for the Lord to give us repentance to submit to His truth as it is written. There are no contradictions! Recovering ourselves is submission to His Word, His Lordship over all. The Devil seeks to corrupt the Word, and the Word in us.

Though none of the others saw these things, I was called out by the scriptures to believe what is in the text itself, not through the eyes of others, but by reading the scriptures in context, and allow myself to learn at my own pace. There were a few saints that have helped along the way, but I am now laboring more as we are all responsible to study and help one another.

Since Brian asked if I would write a testimony of what has brought me to understand the scriptures by right division, I want to say that his e-book "The Appearing" was very helpful to show the purposes of

the feast days. In addition, the patterns such as the Lord's descending to earth in the past are similar to what is to happen again when He returns, to name a few things. I see how critical it is to studying the OT to really appreciate the time of the Acts, and books written during that time as well as distinguishing the books that stand out from the others, the ones that describe the Mystery of the Body of Christ whose hope is in the heavens in Christ.

If you lack confidence in yourself, seek the Lord to teach you His Word. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Is.55:8,9

Kathleen