

THE GLORY OF GOD – 2025

Week 1 – JROC – WHY Is It Crucial to Study the Glory of God?

January 5, 2025

As we pick up with The Glory of God – following Christmas - we were going to jump into Genesis 6 through Genesis 11.

When I mention Genesis 6 through Genesis 11 – what comes to mind?

This section of Scripture is SIGNIFICANT! God further clarifies the line through which the promised Seed of the woman would come...amidst unimaginable evil!

And yet, the world continues up until today...to ask...

“Such a catastrophic flood????????? A flood destroying the earth – the earth that God had created???? Such WIDESPREAD judgment?”

What question is missing? “WHY?” The “WHY” question opens up the backstory – what led up to the flood? The “WHY” question speaks of a seeking heart – a heart seeking TRUTH!

How many of you have had a conversation with a person, be it a believer or a non-believer, who is adamantly opposed to the universal flood?

How many of you have had a conversation with someone who cannot fathom why God would do this to His creation?

What did you share with that person?

Direct them to read how much God loves His creation (Gen. 1:1-31; Gen. 2:15 – God placed man in the garden of Eden to tend and keep the earth. Matt. 6:25-34 - in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of the lilies of the field and how God has arrayed them and the grass of the field. Rom. 1:20 – creation reveals the nature of God. Consider the magnificent intricacy of a living cell, the complexity and the amazing diversity of life on earth, and the mathematical precision of the laws of physics and chemistry, the miracle of birth! Job 38:1-7 – God recounts to Job so majestically how He/God created the earth.

I’ve heard people state, “THE FLOOD SEEMS SO DRASTIC!” – “WHY would God do this to the world and all the people?” Have you been asked, “Why would God do such a thing? Wipe out the world?” We could respond with, “But God rescued eight people and many animals!”

WHY do people get on God’s case?

In our study of “the glory of God” – haven’t we seen WHO God is and haven’t we grasped God’s great love for His creation? Why do some immediately rail against God instead of MARVELING at God and standing in AWE of God?

The study of “The Glory of God” is essential. It’s the basic foundation for our study of the Word of God...in comprehending WHO God is and how He is unfolding His plan of redemption - deliverance – rescuing us out of bondage to sin!

There are many, including Evangelical believers, who do not take the record of the global flood in Genesis seriously. They attribute the account to a moral lesson without regarding the narrative as actual fact...as TRUTH! So, in other words these believers are spiritualizing the text. They

are giving their opinion – telling you what THEY think God is saying. When we understand the Bible – the text that we are reading – literally...we don't need to come up with our ideas!

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT for His understanding!

2

Support your explanation of the text with SCRIPTURE...which means you need to know Scripture.

Spiritualizing the text of Scripture is much easier – much less time-consuming than digging into Scripture and cross referencing in search of additional support from the Bible for, in this case, understanding God's purpose for His creation – and, in this case, understanding God's purpose for the universal flood!

This leads me to share with you what God has laid on my heart re: the verse we're going to FOCUS on – WE being this class – WE being the Jewish ministry – in 2025.

II Tim. 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (NASB).

II Tim. 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (NASB1995).

II Tim. 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (NKJV).

II Tim. 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (ESV).

What's the context?

- Paul was exhorting Timothy to embrace hardship for the sake of the gospel (II Tim. 1:8; 2:3 – *you must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*)
- Remember our risen Savior (II Tim. 2:8)! Was Timothy in danger of forgetting Jesus?
- The Christian life is a marathon – not a 100-yard dash. Endure!
- God's word is powerful (II Tim. 2:9) and His promises are trustworthy (II Tim. 2:11-13).

Timothy was taught the Word of God by his mother and grandmother (II Tim. 1:5). He had been disciplined by Paul and served with Paul in ministry for years. Paul told Timothy that he needed to be diligent in the study of the Word and in rightly dividing the Word of truth!. Without that continuing diligence in the Word, Timothy would not be able to stand firm, and he would not be able to maintain sound teaching – to comprehend sound teaching.

II Tim. 2:14-15 - *Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (NKJV)*

Paul spoke of the false teachers in Ephesus (I Tim. 1:6; 2:8; 6:3-5, 20-21).

How are we understanding/studying the Bible?

Ask the Holy Spirit for understanding as He is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding (Isa. 11:2). Is understanding the Bible crucial? WHY? God has revealed Who He is and He wants

us to KNOW Him and to share Who He is with others. (Dt. 29:29; John 17:3; II Cor. 5:20; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 12:2; Phil 3:10....)

And so... *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*

How are we to understand this verse?

Be diligent – to exert oneself and to be zealous in doing so. WHY?

3

To present – to come before God – to show that you are...

approved to God – *dokimos* – to be accepted/pleasing unto God

Worker – a laborer

Unashamed – having no cause for shame

Rightly dividing; handling accurately – to cut straight; to proceed on straight paths; to hold a straight course; to teach the truth rightly – this applies not only to teachers but also to all believers!

It's clear that Paul is conveying to Timothy that the study of the Bible takes effort. We need to be committed to doing that work if we desire to be equipped for what God intends us to do in life. II Cor. 5:17-20 – Ambassadors for Jesus! Secondly, Paul helps us to focus on the idea that this work in the Word is not about the approval of other people. It is God who is assessing how we handle His Word. We are studying His Word for Him – for His glory!

Also, we understand that, if we are diligent, we will not need to be ashamed because we will have been faithful – in being diligent – to be zealous. with the remarkable stewardship of His Word.

Jude – we are to contend - to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games, i.e. the wrestling mat!!!! to contend with adversaries, to fight, to struggle with difficulties and dangers, and to endeavor with strenuous zeal, to strive.

Jude expressed to his readership that he was very diligent to write to them about their common salvation...BUT Jude then wrote, *I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. The word of God has been given to us - and we are to contend earnestly for God's word!*

Do we realize what a gift we have been given? These are God's very words – God breathed – profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!

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To be “rightly dividing” the Word of truth (NKJV). The Greek word translated as “rightly dividing” is *orthotomounta*—*ortho* means “right or proper,” and *tomounta* means “to cut.” Literally, success in handling the Word is to cut it properly or correctly. Many have taught that this verbiage is considered “farming imagery”, as a farmer who is plowing a field would seek to cut straight furrows in order to plant rows of seed. When plowing, a farmer would look at a point on the other side of the field and focus on that point to ensure the line cut in the dirt was straight. This is what the good student of the Word is doing, as well: remaining focused on the goal or outcome and being diligent to handle the Word of God properly. To rightly divide the Word of

truth is to “cut it straight.”

Ultimately, in studying the Word, we are trying to understand what the Author has said and not allow our own opinions or views to cloud the meaning of what He has written. We need to comprehend, as best we can, God’s perspective – and NOT bring our perspective into grasping what the message of God means. We are to understand that the Bible is God’s perspective – not mine – not yours.