

# The Blessed Hope!

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)**

*Diamond & Nugget #90*

Some of you might be thinking I have gone into hiding in a hole in the ground out of fear of the coming seven-year apocalypse that a well-known “doom and gloom” attorney who writes a column called *“The Economic Collapse”*. Michael Snyder posted his recommendations for the New Year’s goal for the Chaotic Year ahead. Michael is pushing his book *‘7 Year Apocalypse’* as a trailer on his blog *“The Economic Collapse”*. The basis for his new book is simply a dream, according to him, a repeating dream. It is a dream if you believe we are going through the Tribulation of Daniel 9:27. I will bet big on that forthcoming fact.

Mr. Snyder has been posting his generally interesting daily posts on *“The Economic Collapse”*. It does not require a law degree to know the inevitable facing the world today. The U.S. National Debt is closing in on \$30-Trillion! The world is in the control of International bankster’s planning to enslave us to a “cashless” economy where one has to be microchipped in order to be part of that world. He can be persuasive in his *“woe is me”* and *“doom and gloom”* style theological message. He is a shabby arm-chair theologian and his *“pin the tail on the donkey approach”* to understanding the Bible. I am always willing to entertain his thoughts and prophecies; however, his rational has no Biblical basis. One never knows what spark of genius might be revealed. Admittedly, I did not buy his latest book *‘7 Year Apocalypse’* for obvious reasons, since it is simply holds an erroneous view of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel 9:24-27. Nor do I plan to buy it and waste my time.

Unfortunately, Mike did not learn a thing from my review of his book *‘The Rapture Verdict’* in 2016. Everyone has their own opinion about the Bible, and Mike Snyder seems to be overly opinionated about the Bible and yet shows his inability to find and understand there is a master “key” that opens up the instructions to the Word of God. The fact that Mike has published several books on this genre suggests he has become a glutton for punishment or simply unable to discern the deeper message and purpose of the Bible. He propagates Satan’s agenda of fear, and if you stay with me here on this I will nail his coffin shut.

The essential and critical “Key” to unlocking the Bible is 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15, and this Blessed Hope affirms its significance and importance, citing examples of common sense, logic, history, and doctrine reinforcing the principles of Paul given to brother

Timothy. Mike Snyder is a very negative guy despite his disclaimer he posts on his “*Economic Collapse*” blog. That is an inherent quality that can only come from a person who truly believes the Christian believer is going to go through the seven year Tribulation. Not going to happen Mike!



Mike posted his recommended list of *“50 Things That Americans Should Be Stockpiling For The Chaotic Year Ahead”* on January 2, 2022. If you believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, you can breathe a sigh of relief, really seriously! I’m not saying that out of ego or super-confidence. Neither do I infer that we are going to experience a cake-walk either, as the past two years have made that point clear. But it needs to be clear that as we approach the pivotal point where Prince Charles of Wales signs ***“the covenant with the many for one week”*** Chaos in the world will push leaders to the limits.

A report was posted January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 that KAZAKHSTAN has erupted in flames during a bloody uprising which has seen three police officers BEHEADED by mobs in the street, and at least 18 more murdered police and military. Russian "peacekeeping" tanks and troops have been sent into the former Soviet state by Vladimir Putin to help crush the protests - which began on Sunday over a sharp rise in the price of fuel. Everything in the news is exactly what we might and should expect to see leading up to the Daniel 9:27 signing and suggests what likely will take place!

Michael Snyder said: *“Welcome to 2022! Or as many on social media are saying, welcome to “2020 too”. “During the waning months of 2019, I repeatedly warned that I had such a bad feeling about what 2020 would bring, and of course it turned out that all of our lives were completely turned upside down that year. I didn’t issue a similar*

warning for 2021, but now I have such a bad feeling about 2022. So many of the long-term trends that I have been warning about for ages are starting to come to a crescendo, and I am encouraging everyone to do whatever they can to get prepared for some extremely troubled times.”

“It has been a while since I have published an article that focuses on practical advice, and I want to start doing that more. Below, you will find my updated list of 50 things that I believe that people should be stockpiling for the year ahead. It is certainly not an exhaustive list, but at least it will help get you started. Most of these things you should be able to find in your local stores. In some cases, the supply chain crisis is making it more difficult to find certain items, and that is just one reason why I have always urged people to get prepared as far ahead of time as possible. The longer you wait, the worse the shortages may become.”

“Getting fully prepared for the collapse of our society is not something that can be done in a few weeks or even a few months. In fact, I don’t think that anyone can ever be “fully prepared” for all possible scenarios. But I believe that you will find the following list helpful in covering many of the basics. The following are 50 things that Americans should be stockpiling for the year ahead...”

- #1 A Conventional Generator and A Solar Generator
- #2 A Berkey Water Filter
- #3 A Rainwater Collection System If You Do Not Have A Natural Supply of Water Near Your Home
- #4 A Large Emergency Medical Kit
- #5 Rice
- #6 Pasta
- #7 Canned Soup
- #8 Canned Vegetables
- #9 Canned Fruit
- #10 Canned Chicken
- #11 Jars of Peanut Butter
- #12 Salt
- #13 Sugar
- #14 Powdered Milk
- #15 Bags of Flour
- #16 Yeast
- #17 Lots of Extra Coffee (If You Drink It)
- #18 Buckets of Long-Term Storable Food
- #19 Lots of Extra Vitamins
- #20 Lighters or Matches
- #21 Candles
- #22 Flashlights or Lanterns
- #23 Plenty of Wood To Burn
- #24 Extra Blankets
- #25 Extra Sleeping Bags

- #26 Ammunition
- #27 Extra Fans If You Live In A Hot Climate
- #28 Hand Sanitizer
- #29 Toilet Paper
- #30 Extra Soap and Shampoo
- #31 Extra Toothpaste
- #32 Extra Razors
- #33 Bottles of Bleach
- #34 A Battery-Powered Radio
- #35 Extra Batteries
- #36 Solar Chargers
- #37 Trash Bags
- #38 Tarps
- #39 A Pocket Knife
- #40 A Hammer
- #41 An Axe
- #42 A Shovel
- #43 Work Gloves
- #44 Lots of Warm Socks
- #45 Seeds for A Garden
- #46 Canning Jars
- #47 Extra Supplies for Your Pets
- #48 A Substantial Emergency Supply of Cash
- #49 Bibles for Every Member of Your Family
- #50 A "Bug Out Bag" for Every Member of Your Family

*"Preparation is going to look different depending on where you live.*

*For example, if you live in a very hot climate your preparations will look quite a bit different when compared to someone that lives in a very cold climate.*

*The key is to assess your long-term needs during an extended period of crisis. We all will need food, water, power and shelter, and so make sure that you don't neglect any of those four major areas.*

*Moving forward, I am going to try to do more articles like this, because many people out there are really going to need practical advice as our society starts to come apart all around us."*

\*\*\*It is finally here! Michael's new book entitled "7 Year Apocalypse" is now available in paperback and for the Kindle on Amazon.\*\*\*

I guess Mike wants us to buy his book to take along with all this other stuff one would need to hide out with. The last I recalled Mike lived in a remote area of Idaho. A few years ago he ran for office in the U.S. Congress for one of Idaho's districts. Not many of

us would find it feasible and practical to do all what he suggests given we are told most people are only a paycheck away from poverty.

His very first item on his list is a conventional generator, something impractical unless you have your own home. Have you looked at the price of such a luxury? Bottom line today, a generator will set you back a minimum of \$3,000 and could run as much as \$20,000. Then there are the installation costs and supplies needed. A skilled labor installation begins around \$3,000 and up to \$7,000+. Like any newly installed system, you will have to figure on materials you may not have in your garage or basement, and that could run up the tab between \$2,500 and \$5,000. I'm not kidding either!

I can tell you without a doubt, the cost of construction today is off the charts and into the stratosphere! I rent a church parsonage and did some inquiry last year about renovating the bathroom, and the estimates were insane. \$20K was the typical price quote, and I'm only talking about a small bathroom, 6'x8' with a modest walk-in shower. At those prices, it's almost worth building a new house. I know something about home-building construction costs. I built a ten-room, 2,500-sq.ft. new house in the early 1970s, and I figure my bathroom back then new was about \$1,300. I'm not even talking about my medical expenses to have hernia-repair surgery that I needed as a result of being my own builder.

So, if you want to be an upscale prepper like Mike Snyder, remember he is an attorney and as such, is not on your typical middle-class budget. Note he recommends a Solar Generator as well. The kind that he would require will set you back \$2,500 and God help you when the Sun is blocked by clouds and precipitation on a day when you really need it. The only system that seems close to what a small house requires is the Patriot Power Generator 1800; it has a continuous output of 1,800 watts. If an appliance uses 1,800 watts of power or less it will suffice. Most small appliances including your fridge and freezer fall into this group but not much more than your kitchen.

Solar is not all that it is hyped up to be. I installed a roof-top solar 2-large 4x8 panels back when I built my house. I was one of the first to install solar back in the 1970s. On a summer day back then, I was able to heat 500 gallons of hot water a day with the two solar panels. I had two hot water tanks in my basement, a standard 40-gallon tank and an auxiliary 50-gallon tank circulating antifreeze in a sealed copper feed line connected to my solar panels. Since available sun light fluctuates, hour-to-hour, day-to-day, the key is all about getting maximum sun light positioning and mounting of your collectors. My point here is that solar backup is not as cheap and efficient as the renewable-energy people want you to believe. Furthermore, since 1997 the almost daily Chemtrail aerial spraying reduces available direct sun light by high noon and defeats the whole purpose of renewable solar energy.

Even as I think about it, a backup generator is going to require a backup storage tank or containers to hold your fuel source, i.e. gas, propane or diesel. No, to be a prepper for all the potential issues you need to prepare for is going to require a second mortgage or a home equity line of credit, and I'm not sure you can obtain those these days.

The fact is, the first few items are out of the question for the nuclear family of four these days, and even Mike once said, most people are one pay-check away from bankruptcy! All the other items on this list when totaled up are going to run you into debt for a couple thousand more! Mike's list overlooks many modest priced necessities.

I did not see a camp stove or a wood burner anywhere on Mike's list but these and a fire extinguisher or two might be worth considering. I did not see anything like a Leatherman Wilderness Survival Multi-Tool on the list, something that most outdoors men consider essential. A really inexpensive must is a sharpening stone. I would add a supply of nylon rope as a necessity. I did not see on Mike's list for a church key (army term for a can opener). Why not a small magnetic compass, it should be a must for someone like Mike having little to no survival skills, and living in largely rural area of Idaho. The satellite GPS could be eliminated by a Chinese or Russian missile.

Since Mike does not believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, he is obviously not a fan of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15, ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** If Mike Snyder believed in rightly dividing the word of truth, he might believe our comforting words of Titus 2:13: ***“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”***

The promises of God in the Bible (like deliverance before judgment) are so abundant (around 300) that those who believe His Messiah's shed blood paid for their sins wouldn't have to endure the seven years of terrible events that were also prophesied in the Bible and more coming on the people on Earth. Dr. Chuck Missler used to say, *“if you don't understand the Rapture Doctrine, we'll explain it to you on the way up”*. While Chuck often said that in a humorous jest, I would hope the church has not errantly read into the words of the Apostle Paul an unintended implication that even if one does not believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, like Mike Snyder, you don't need to worry about having to believe in the Pre-Trib. Rapture because you will automatically go because you believe Jesus Christ. What if that is a misunderstanding of the text.

It may seem strange that I might be suggesting that not all Christians may not get *“caught up”* or *“snatched up”* ***“harpazo”*** in the twinkling of an eye! I'm thinking out loud here hypothetically so. But just for thoughts to ponder, what if that might be the case? Consider what the implications are alluding to.

The best estimates given are that fewer than 20% of the church believes in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture doctrine. End-Times theology is wavering in the Christian church and a large number of Protestant pastors believe there is no rapture.

Whether Pre-tribulation or Post rapture, a recent new study by LifeWay research reveals that pinning down details of the apocalypse among a group of pastors is hard to do. Although the Scriptures make it clear that Jesus is coming back researchers found varying views on three aspects of end-times theology: the Rapture, the Antichrist, and the Millennial kingdom.

Out of the 1,000 senior Protestant pastors surveyed, only a third (36 percent) believed in a Pre-tribulation Rapture where Christians disappear at the start of the apocalypse and those left behind suffer tribulation.

Thirty-six percent of pastors say the Rapture is not literal, while almost 1 in 5 believes the Rapture happens after the Tribulation (18 percent). This is our “Prepper” buddy Mike Snyder’s view. It would be an ironic turn of events or consequence if people like Mike Snyder and his fellow skeptics get what they are preparing for. Can you see what I am thinking.

End-Times theology is popular with churchgoers but it is not an easy topic to preach about, Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research, explained.

*"Most people want their pastor to preach about the Book of Revelation and the end of the world," he said. "But that's a complicated task. Pastors and the scholars they cite often disagree about how the end times will unfold."*

The diversity among eschatological views includes varying opinions on the Anti-Christ and beliefs in a Millennial kingdom.

About half of pastors (49 percent) see the Anti-Christ as a figure who will arise in the future, 14 percent believe he is the personification of evil, while 12 percent say he is not an actual person.

Close to half of the pastors surveyed believe in Pre-Millennialism (48 percent), which is the view that the thousand year reign of Christ happens in the future.

A third (31 percent) of leaders does not believe in a thousand year reign but they do believe that Jesus already rules in the hearts and minds of Christians. Close to 1 in 10 (11 percent) believe in Post-millennialism, the idea that the world will gradually become more Christian until Jesus returns. Such thinking does not reflect competent understanding of Biblical Eschatology or the Greek language of the Textus-Receptus.

McConnell said it isn't a bad thing that pastors disagree on the details of the apocalypse because most agree on the main teachings about the Second Coming of Jesus. He said the rest doesn't affect the day-to-day life of most Christians. But is he right in his assumptions?

*"The big picture of Revelation is clear: Jesus returns, people must be ready, evil is defeated," he said. "With the rest of the details, there is room for disagreement."*

This study was conducted five or six years ago and when we look at what the world has been through in 2000 and 2001, we might find the percentages may be even lower today. Covid was a Retrovirus, weaponized by the insertion of 18 fragments of the HIV1 virus genome and 4 fragments of the SARS2 virus genome. It contains 92% of the HIV1 viral load. This was achieved by CRISPR technology, a “cut and paste” using

synthetic biology on a computer. It was executed for the purpose of bringing in the global one-world order, an economic-political-religious Antichrist system.

Gary Stearman host of the web site "Prophecy Watchers" said in May, 2021, *"It may surprise you but 80% of Christians don't believe in a Pre-Tribulation rapture. Many are convinced the church will endure the entire 7 year Tribulation. Others teach that Christians will face part of the Tribulation. Still others believe the prophecies of the Bible were all fulfilled in 70 AD, tossing aside the book of Revelation and its end-time prophecies."*

As a point of reference, the Rapture is a prophesied event in Christian Eschatology, in which Christians will be gathered together at the return of Christ; even Christians who have died are to be resurrected to participate in the coming of Christ.

The primary passage for the Rapture is 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:15-17, in which Paul cites **"the word of the Lord"** about the return of Jesus to gather His saints. Although all Christian denominations believe in this event there are two primary views regarding the relationship of this event with end-time prophecy:

Amillennialists (such as Roman Catholics, and others), Post-Millennialists (such as Presbyterians, and others), and historic Pre-Millennialists (such as Calvinistic Baptists, and others) hold that the return of Jesus Christ will be a single, public event. All passages regarding the return of Jesus Christ, such as Matthew 24:29-31, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:15-17, Revelation 1:7, etc., describe the return of Jesus in the clouds amidst trumpets, angelic activity, heavenly signs, a resurrection, and a gathering of saints. Although some take this event to be figurative or symbolic, rather than literal, these three groups maintain that passages regarding the return of Christ describe a single event, and that the **"word of the Lord"** cited by Paul in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:15-17 is the Olivet Discourse which Matthew separately describes in Matthew 24:29-31.

Dispensationalist Pre-Millennialists (such as many Evangelicals) hold the return of Christ to be in two stages. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:15-17 is seen to be a preliminary event to the return described in Matthew 24:29-31. Although both describe a return of Jesus in the clouds with angelic activity, trumpets, heavenly signs, and a gathering of the saints, these are seen to be two separate events, the first unseen, and the second public. Dispensationalists are divided, however, on whether the first event comes before a period of Tribulation, or midway through it.

All of this what seems to be so controversial teaching about the Rapture, its timing, its purpose, its confusion largely comes from ignorance of how to interpret the Bible. Whether you have a Th.D. in Biblical Theology or a diploma from some unknown Bible College, the dilemma is linked directly to one's understanding the structure of the Bible. Four books are at the center of this dilemma: Matthew, Acts, Hebrews, and Revelation are the origin of so many false doctrines in the Church. These are "transitional" books and are the favorite books of heretics to espouse Biblical heresy.



Removing the emotional issues that seem always surfacing in this debate; and staying with the basic teachings of the Apostle Paul is hard to stay focused upon since the Pre-Tribulation doctrine originated with the Apostle Paul himself! I suggest that this problem arises out of the failure of the shepherds to **“Rightly Divide the Word of God”**

In that LifeWay phone survey, Mainline Protestant pastors (36%) are more likely to say the Rapture isn't literal. Pastors who hold this view include about half of Lutherans (60%), Methodists (48%), and Presbyterian/Reformed pastors (49%). Few Baptist (6%) or Pentecostal pastors (less than 1%) hold this view. Their beliefs, more often than not, are the formation of what they were taught in Bible college or seminary. For most their belief understanding has come from an academic institution linked or affiliated with a particular denomination, and more specifically, how far removed (distanced) they are from Reformation/Covenant theology. As an example, most Lutheran denominations are closer to Rome than say Baptists are. This is true of the United Methodist Church and the Anglican Church as well. The ecumenical movement will have succeeded and ceased to exist with the unified world church under the umbrella of Rome's auspices during the Tribulation period.

It is a well-known fact that the Vatican Jesuit-controlled Roman Catholic has rejected Pre-Millennialism because it negates their doctrine of purgatory. If you know anything about the history of how the 501(c)3 (tax exemption) legislation came into existence you would know it came about by agreeing not to speak ill will of the Roman Catholic institution and to never teach or preach about Bible prophecy, the Rapture or Second Coming among other topics. I'm an old guy, and I came into ministry at the very time of Vatican II sessions. I was “all ears” in the presence of fellow Methodist pastors who were retiring early, even forced to retire, because of this new promoting of ecumenism in the Methodist Church.

Evangelicals overall (43%) are more likely to believe in a Pre-tribulation Rapture. I've always found it incredible that professing Christians who are so quick to throw out and malign the Apostle Paul are everywhere, in every supposedly conservative Bible-believing denomination. The Apostle Paul authored 13/14 epistles of the New Testament's total 27 books. Of the official count ascribed to Paul as the author, **Paul is the author of 28 percent of the New Testament!** Hebrews is not explicitly named as being authored by the Apostle Paul, yet skilled linguists suggest that writing style, terminology, phrases, inferences, have led to a large constituency of theologians and Bible scholars to believe the book of Hebrews was authored by the Apostle Paul. For what it is worth, this writer would concur with that view as well.

That's certainly not an insignificant point when you weigh it against the larger context of the Bible, especially when we treat the New Testament correctly. The fact is the New Testament chronologically does not begin until the Cross! The Cross is the correct way to rightfully divide the word of truth. Although Malachi is recognized as the last book of the Old Testament, most of the Gospel writers are “transitional” gospels. The New Testament begins with the Cross. Interestingly so, **the entire Bible consists of 28**

**percent prophecy content** [history told in advance]. You simply cannot come up with better proof than this information which validates the Bible as the Word of God.

I don't want to get too distracted here as my primary focus is this issue of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15, ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** If you do a “Word Study” of the Bible, the importance of this verse stands out like an oversized traffic stop sign! Bear with me here as we exegete the Scriptures. Nothing illustrates and proves my point better than the word “Baptism”. Follow closely my train of thought by keeping the question in your mind, ***“What is the correct method of baptism for Christians today?”*** As you will see, they can't all be correct for believers today! This issue becomes a quandary when one fails to rightly divide the Word of God.

It is a common mistake to think that water baptism is the only baptism in the Bible. Every time the word “baptism” is mentioned people wrongly assume water is involved. The Bible mentions many baptisms, and many of them are dry including the one and only baptism required for being a member of the body of Christ.

***“...One Lord, one faith, one baptism,...”***—(Ephesians 4:5)

This one baptism is our baptism into Jesus Christ by the Spirit -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:13). This is the one baptism taught by the apostle Paul, and the only one that accompanies salvation in this dispensation -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:13; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12)

Here is the list of distinct baptisms in the Bible. Only six of them (3,4,5,6,7, and 10) are wet or by water. Can you find the common thread among the baptisms that include water?

1. Noah's type baptism

Peter mentions that eight people were saved by water in an ark as a type of a future baptism. Water is present, but the people are dry. -(Genesis 6:13; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:20-21)

2. Baptism unto Moses

Paul presents Israel's baptism unto Moses ***“in the cloud and in the sea”***. Water is present, but the people are dry. -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:1-2; Exodus 14:29)

3. Israel's ceremonial cleansings

These cleansing rituals were required under the Mosaic Law for the cleansing of the people. -(Numbers 19:13; Leviticus 11:25; Exodus 19:14; Exodus 30:17-21; Hebrews 9:10)

4. Levitical priesthood baptisms

These washings were required in order to become a priest under the Law of Moses. -(Exodus 29:4; Leviticus 8:6; Numbers 8:7)

#### 5. Traditional Jewish baptisms

These baptisms were not mandated under the Law but were part of Jewish tradition.  
-(Matthew 15:1-2; Mark 7:1-9; Luke 11:38)

#### 6. John's baptism

John came to Israel baptizing with water for the remission of sins so that they could enter the promised kingdom to Israel and identify their Messiah. -(Matthew 3:5-6; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; John 1:31; Luke 7:29; Acts 10:37)

#### 7. Jesus' baptism by John

Jesus, who knew no sin, was baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness under the law.  
-(Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-10)

#### 8. Baptism with fire

Jesus would baptize the nation with fire as they went through the tribulation. This trial baptism would damn the unfaithful to hell. -(Isaiah 4:4; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16)

9. Jesus' baptism unto death Jesus' second baptism which he accomplished at the cross where he was identified with the sins of Israel and the world. -(Matthew 20:22-23; Mark 10:38-39; Luke 12:50)

#### 10. Pentecostal water baptism

Peter's presentation of water baptism for the remission of sins in the name of Jesus. This was John's baptism plus the name of Jesus.-(Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19; Acts 22:16; Ezekiel 36:25)

#### 11. Pentecostal Spirit baptism

This is the baptism with the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ from heaven poured out upon the believing remnant of Israel with signs and powers following. -(Isaiah 44:3; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 24:49; Acts 2:17-18, 38; Acts 8:15-17; Acts 11:16)

#### 12. Gentile baptism of Cornelius

Cornelius was baptized with the Holy Spirit as a sign to Peter. Peter subsequently baptizes Cornelius and the other Spirit-filled Gentiles with water in a different order but for the same reason as Pentecost. -(Acts 10:45-48)

#### 13. Baptism for the dead

This baptism is debated heavily and is most likely synonymous with one of the other baptisms. If this is true, "*for the dead*" would signify the circumstance under which those believers were baptized. -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:29)

#### 14. Baptism into Jesus Christ

The only baptism taught by Paul which identifies the believer with Christ, his death, and resurrection. This baptism is performed by the Spirit and does not include water.  
-(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5; Colossians 2:12; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3-4)

Out of fourteen baptisms in the Bible, only six involved the use of water. This problem goes away as so many other issues that divide believers when you follow the words of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15, ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”***

A common way many preachers will refute the Apostle Paul is to note Paul’s writings form a significant portion of Scripture and contain many important explanations of doctrine and church life. However, to get a complete picture of what God has to say, you need to read and understand the Bible as a whole rather than focusing primarily on Paul. It merely skirts the issue with an even more complicated dilemma.

I have just proved my point that one cannot understand the Bible unless it is understood that it was written or structured in a dispensational order summary. The very word “dispensation” is illustrated four times in –(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:17; Ephesians 1:10; Ephesians 3:2; and Colossians 1:25). Scripture is God’s plan of History (His)story of His creation we call and refer to as “man”.



To understand any passage of the Bible, you have to weigh three principle questions:

1. WHO is the passage written to,
2. Who does it APPLIES to,
3. And, does it doctrinally apply to TODAY

Our buddy, anti-Pre-Trib. Mike Snyder, who is a lawyer by career, a profession where “words” carry legal meanings and huge consequences if incorrectly applied, has failed to learn the importance of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15. That “Key” passage may not be in his translation, but ignorance is no excuse in the Court of Divine Proclamation.

The Greek word for dispensation is **οἰκονομία**. Strong's Number G3622 matches the Greek **οἰκονομία** (**oikonomia**), which occurs 8 times in 8 verses in the Textus-Receptus Greek. The KJV translates Strong's G3622 in the following manner: dispensation (4x), stewardship (3x), and edifying (1x).

I. The management of a household or of household affairs

- A. specifically, the management, oversight, administration, of other's property
- B. the office of a manager or overseer, stewardship
- C. administration, dispensation

We English-speaking folks need to be mindful and understand that both Greek and Hebrew have a vocabulary with infinitely more words to express intent in what they are communicating. This is the first impediment for Mike Snyder, no Biblical language skills.

To sharpen this understanding, I will deal with the specific passages used by the Apostle Paul himself: Ephesians 1:10; 3:2; Colossians 1:25; and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:17.

In **Ephesians 1:10**, the language used continues to express the purpose which God had in mind, that in this day in which we are privileged to live, all those people "in Christ" would be part of the same Body, with no distinctions. The scope of this verse, however, cannot be limited just to the present age. The work of subjecting this universe totally to Christ will continue in the Millennium. The word translated "dispensation" (**oikonomian**) comes from two Greek words placed together, one meaning "law" (**nomos**) and the other meaning "house" (**oikos**). It literally becomes "house-law" and often is translated "stewardship." Because the word can be used in different ways, the Bible student must look at it within the context where it is used. Here it obviously relates to the overall purpose of God to subject everything to Christ in an ultimate sense.

In **Ephesians 3:2**, Paul felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to explain more thoroughly what he had mentioned only briefly about Jews and Gentiles being incorporated into the "one body" with no distinctions and with equal privileges and responsibilities - (Ephesians 2:16). Paul had been given "**the dispensation of the grace of God**" or an "**administration of God's grace.**" "Dispensation" (**oikonomia**) literally means "house manager" and could be translated "stewardship, economy, administration, arrangement, plan, task." In other words, God had given him the responsibility of making known to the world the meaning of the mystery God had revealed to him: the amazing unity of the New Testament Church, with no distinction between Gentiles and Jews.

In **Colossians 1:25**, the word translated "dispensation" (**oikonomia**) literally means "house-manager" and could be rendered "stewardship, administration, economy." The apostle was keenly aware that God had given him a divine commission to preach the Word. Furthermore, he was always concerned about giving out the Word of God.

While Paul may have had something else in mind, it is possible he was referring to the necessity of people receiving the Word of God and practicing it. In other words, he was

not pleased just to dispense the truth of the Scriptures in a manner similar to scattering seeds in a field. He was concerned that the seed of the Word of God would take root and produce fruit in people's lives.

Apparently the translators of the New International Version believed Paul was referring to presenting the totality of the Word of God. That idea is very consistent with the statement by the apostle to the Ephesian elders -(Acts 20:27) in his farewell address to them. His constant intention always involved informing people of all the will of God, not just certain segments of it. Either interpretation seems consistent with the total teachings of the apostle. Whatever he meant, the verse obviously shows the apostle's intense determination to present the Word of God to other people.

Paul's chief concern in regard to his personal ministry was very clear. He wanted Jesus Christ to be supreme in it. He did not want to become sidetracked on some minor issue that did not emphasize the centrality of the gospel. A person who truly declares the gospel message as central is a person who will make Jesus Christ supreme in his ministry. This is the kind of ministry that truly touches and changes lives for Jesus Christ.

In **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:17**, Paul may have been saying that the man who preaches willingly merits a reward; whereas, if he does it unwillingly, he is nevertheless not excused. But perhaps the idea in this verse is carefully built on the previous one. If Paul preached from choice he would merit a reward. As it was, it was not his own choice; he had been chosen to preach. The following verse would then begin, "*What reward is possible under these circumstances?*"

The picture is one of a servant whose work is determined for him and his merit is in his faithfulness. The picture is of a sovereign Lord and an obedient slave. The Lord had given Paul an assignment. Some find a hint of predestination in such a view, but if so, it is in the matter of apostleship, not in the matter of salvation. It is God's choice that is involved. He chooses special vessels for special service.

**Οἰκονομία** *oikonomia* noun  
Stewardship, administration, management.

**Cross-Reference:**  
**οἰκονομέω** *oikonomeō*

**Septuagint:**  
מְשָׁלָה *memshālāh* (4617), Authority (Isaiah 22:21).  
מַצָּב *matstsāv* (4835), Office (Isaiah 22:19).

**Grammatical Forms:**  
1. **οἰκονομίας** *oikonomias* gen sing fem  
2. **οἰκονομίαν** *oikonomian* acc sing fem  
3. **οἰκονομία** *oikonomia* nom sing fem

## Concordance:

- |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | give an account of thy <b>stewardship</b> ;                 | <a href="#">Luke 16:2</a> |
| 2 | for my lord taketh away from me the <b>stewardship</b> :    | <a href="#">Luke 16:3</a> |
| 1 | that, when I am put out of the <b>stewardship</b> ,         | <a href="#">Luke 16:4</a> |
| 2 | a <b>dispensation</b> of the gospel is committed unto me.   | <a href="#">1 Co 9:17</a> |
| 2 | That in the <b>dispensation</b> of the fulness of times     | <a href="#">Eph 1:10</a>  |
| 2 | If ye have heard of the <b>dispensation</b> of the grace    | <a href="#">Eph 3:2</a>   |
| 3 | what is the <b>administration</b> of the mystery (NASB)     | <a href="#">Eph 3:9</a>   |
| 2 | a minister, according to the <b>dispensation</b> of God     | <a href="#">Col 1:25</a>  |
| 2 | rather than godly <b>edifying</b> which is in faith: so do. | <a href="#">1 Tm 1:4</a>  |

## Word Studies:

### Classical Greek and Septuagint Usage

The word ***oikonomia*** is derived from the words ***oikos***, “house,” and ***nemō***, “to deal out,” or “to administrate.” From the time of Xenophon and Plato it represented household administration, the management of a household or of household affairs. Generally it is used for the administration of the state and was eventually used to designate every kind of activity that accrued from the position (Goetzmann, “House,” *Colin Brown*, 2:253). It thus takes on the related meanings of “direction, provision,” or “administration.” The word occurs in the Septuagint only in Isaiah 22:19,21 with its original meaning of “administration, office.”

### New Testament Usage

In the New Testament ***oikonomia*** may be extended to include management of the property of others, thus becoming “stewardship” -(Luke 16:2-4). In the Pauline epistles it denotes the apostle’s attitude toward the duties of his apostolic office. In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:17 Paul used the word to describe the responsibility of preaching the gospel entrusted him by God as a “commission” from which he could not draw back (“A dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me”). Paul also used ***oikonomia*** to designate his responsibility to “fulfil the Word of God” -(Colossians 1:25) by which he meant he had been entrusted to impart to the Colossians the unfolding of the plan of God that has been consummated in the Church, the body of Christ. (For a similar passage, cf. Ephesians 3:2.)

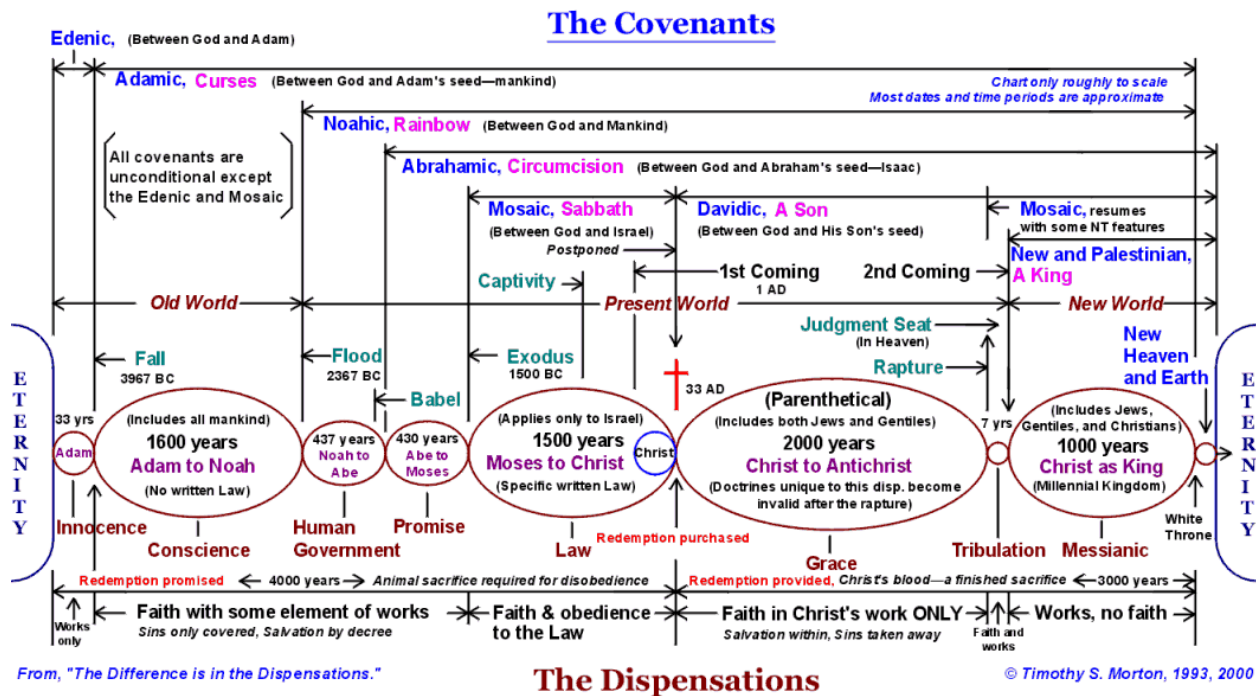
In Ephesians 1:10 (“*dispensation* of the fullness of times”) and 3:9 (“fellowship of the mystery”) ***oikonomia*** denotes the administration of the plan of God, hidden from eternity in God, by which He, in the fullness of time, will sum up all things in Christ. Finally, in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:4 the apostle warned of those who would indulge in speculative knowledge rather than godly “instruction” in faith. With reference to the KJV’s translation of ***oikonomia*** as “dispensation,” Vine’s comment is appropriate: “A dispensation is not a period or epoch (a common, but erroneous, use of the word), but a mode of dealing, an arrangement or administration of affairs” (*Expository Dictionary*, “Dispensation”). Few in pastoral ministry are trained in the Biblical languages, a serious mistake if you are

tasked with teaching the Word of God. What most people do not know is that mainline denominations began dropping their requirements of Greek and Hebrew around the mid-1950s. Seminaries changed their core requirement for both Greek and Hebrew to that of an elective choice by 1960. Only the United Presbyterian retained the requirement of the Biblical languages for graduation.

**Resource Tools:**

- Strong <G3622>
- Bauer 559-60
- Moulton-Milligan 442
- Kittel 5:151-53
- Liddell-Scott 1204
- Colin Brown 2:253-56

I have seen many Dispensational charts in my ministry time, most are good but some are exceptional. This chart by Timothy Morton is one of those I consider to be in this category.



When so many people seem to “get by” without the knowledge of the Bible rightly divided, it is tempting to think it does not matter greatly. As I relate God’s Word to the crisis the world is passing through presently, it seems to me that understanding the world becomes significant and of sharper focus through our seeing the times at the end of the Age of Grace or the Age of the Church as filtered through rightly dividing the word of truth.

I have been listening to a number of experts in psychology such as Dr. Mattias Desmet, a Belgian teacher of ‘Mass Formation Psychosis’; Dr. Robert Malone, the inventor of the



mRNA vaccine; and Dr. Peter McCullough, the most published cardio-renal physician in world history. Perception of the world is being discussed as it relates to 'Mass Formation Psychosis'. We are at a point in time where it has never been more important to understand that we are not losing our minds, but in reality we have been gas-lighted, I prefer to keep our focus on the global elite agenda of destroying the human will. It is nothing short of Satan's orchestrated plan to steal, kill, and destroy! ***"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*** –(John 10:10)

The Apostle Paul said it well, ***"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"*** –(Ephesians 4:15). Truth always wins out in the end, and despite the fact that I was aware of what we are going through over two years ago. At times warning of the dark side seemed at times to be futile to wake folks up from the hypnosis perpetuated by the minions of Satan and the Antichrist system coming into full focus as we are witness to today. We must speak the truth, and we cannot go back to what was the normal. We must move on in Christian non-violent resistance. This Satanic global lockstep cannot be reversed, trust knowing that God is bringing us through a metamorphosis phase in our journey to the Rapture event we have so long awaited. We have no choice but to trust the words of Jesus Christ. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture is akin to that breaking forth of the butterfly from its pod.



I have used the butterfly example as an object lesson to small children to communicate God's wonderful promise of deliverance, new birth, transformation. Parents have always appreciated that lesson as well.

The Metamorphosis Motif of a butterfly visualizes the physical process leading to our glorified Rapture body: Metamorphosis in butterflies is a complete metamorphosis because of its distinctive stages: the egg, the larvae (Caterpillar), the pupa (Chrysalis) and the adult stage. The insect's physical features are different in all the stages of the metamorphosis process. May I suggest to you the importance of ***"rightly dividing the word"*** enables us to maintain balance as we experience the turbulence of events this side of what is just ahead or at the other side of the tunnel!

Is rightly dividing the word of truth important? Why is it important to recognize the importance of progressive revelation and the special dispensation of grace in which we now live? Here are but a few reasons.

### **#1 Your Salvation**

The church is facing a gospel crisis. No one can agree on what it is, or how to preach it. Christian catch-phrases and slogans abound in personal testimonies causing serious doubt as to whether self-named Christians are actually trusting the gospel of Christ or not. People “receive Jesus”, “renounce sin”, and “believe God” without knowing the preaching of the cross. A failure to rightly divide often allows a Cross-less gospel, which results in unsaved people thinking that they are. Decades ago, the church removed the hymns and words about the “Blood”, the key element of one’s salvation. I have witnessed this transition in my life time and its importance has been withdrawn from the church.

### **#2 Your Bible**

One major reason for people disbelieving the Bible is because of supposed contradictions. The vast majority of these apparent contradictions are resolved by rightly dividing the word of truth. Without right division, the Bible does not mean what it says, has mistakes, or worse, it is not really the word of God.

### **#3 Your Understanding**

Biblical illiteracy is a direct result of not rightly dividing the word of truth. I have lost count of how many people have learned right division and say something like, *“my eyes have been opened, I love studying the Bible now.”* Conversely, people stop studying when they can’t understand. When the Scriptures are dark trusting the “professionals” to interpret becomes necessary, which means personal Bible study ceases.

### **#4 Your Growth and Christian Walk**

Spiritual growth can only happen after people are saved (see the first item above). After salvation, not rightly dividing can severely stunt your spiritual growth. If a baby Christian thinks their growth is found in keeping the law of the red letters in Matthew 5, the persistent labor of Hebrews, James, or the sinlessness of 1<sup>st</sup> John, then they are in for trouble. A Christian saved by grace needs to walk in grace, and that instruction is found in Paul’s epistles alone.

### **#5 Your Finances**

Unless you live under a rock, everyone knows there is financial fraud in what is now a multi-billion dollar church industry. What is lesser known is that it is a direct result of wrong doctrine. You would not be the first or last Christian to place their last hope of financial deliverance on the manipulations and lies of pastors in sheep clothing that teach the law tithe principle instead of the dispensation of God’s grace toward giving.

### **#6 Your Marriage**

Understanding the dispensational change from law to grace will forever change the way you think about your relationship to your spouse and children. The graceless face of

legalism too often dwells in Christian homes and marriages. When the mystery of Jesus Christ and the church is taught, legalism is evicted, and love can grow between people that would otherwise be incompatible.

### **#7 Your Health**

From avoiding medical help to placing all your hope in a healing, the faith of many is destroyed when bad things happen and loved ones die. Understanding what God is doing today (the dispensational question) gives you sufficient grace and wisdom to know how trouble can make your faith stronger instead of weaker.

### **#8 Your Career**

Well-meaning Christians want to serve the Lord, but do not know His will. Waiting for signs that never come, assigning divine purpose to circumstances, or moving in the wrong direction, are all career mistakes that Christians face because of a failure to rightly divide. Learning God's will is necessary for success in the Christian life. God's will must be rightly divided.

### **#9 Your Prayers**

Perhaps your confusion about prayer is directly related to not understanding what God is doing today and why. After all, didn't Jesus promise to give what we asked in his name? Once again, rightly dividing puts prayer in its proper place.... and many more.

This is only a brief list of why right division is important, but can there be any more important reasons? I could go on and on about your joy, your peace, your politics, your future, your hope, etc.

Paul's dispensational right division will save you from scores of doctrinal errors, and will enlighten you to the power of God's will -(Ephesians 1:18; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:4). The Bible rightly divided is not only important, it is necessary. It's time all believers in Jesus Christ started rightly dividing His Word.

At the beginning I presented the useless, futile, and expensive preparation that Michael Snyder believes everyone should be doing to be prepared for the Tribulation. Save your money, trust that if Jesus wanted us to prepare for the Tribulation, we would have been told at some point in the Apostle Paul's words what to do and how to do it.

Michael Snyder always concludes his posts with his usual disclaimer:

**The material contained in this article is for general information purposes only, and readers should consult licensed professionals before making any legal, business, financial or health decisions. I encourage you to follow me on social media on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and any way that you can share these articles with others is a great help. During these very challenging times, people will need hope more than ever before, and it is our goal [to share the gospel of Jesus Christ](#) with as many people as we possibly can.**

I'm not sure if he isn't doing this to keep from being sued, but it should be expected from a lawyer like Mike Snyder. As for me and my house, I would prefer to put my trust in the

blood of Jesus Christ as my advocate. The Apostle Paul offers us the vantage point of a Dispensational approach to the Word of God, where we can be comforted by His promises and strengthened by the Blessed Hope. The obligation of every believer is to evangelize by proclaiming the Gospel of the grace of God to every creature –(Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15); and to be filled with the Holy Spirit and let Him direct His every thought and action –(Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18); and present ourselves as a living sacrifice for God’s service and separate himself from the world –(Romans 12:1-2).

There is no heavenly need to be spending limited funds upon items you will have no need of or use for in the Millennial 1,000 year reign and rule of our Lord Jesus Christ. I’m finishing this in a distraction-free environment. The outside silence that reflects the 10-inches of snow we received yesterday and ten-degrees this morning is deafening. Even the bright sun light out now is deceiving by the peaceful serenity accompanying it. Let your faith grow in all the richness and wonder of God’s Sacred Word as we wait patiently for the call, “**Come up hither!**” -(Take your pick - Revelation 4:1 or 11:12)

Blessings from our Lord Jesus Christ,

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