

Peter & Paul Cheat Sheet: Divided Rightly = Applied Correctly

Introduction

Much of the confusion in modern Christendom does not come from a lack of sincerity or love for Scripture—it comes from failing to recognize the clear distinctions God Himself has placed in His Word. When law and grace are mixed, when Peter and Paul are treated as preaching the same message to the same audience, and when Israel and the Church are blurred into one entity, Scripture becomes contradictory, frustrating, and unclear.

Rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) brings clarity—not division. It allows each passage of Scripture to say exactly what God intended, to whom it was written, and in what context. This cheat sheet is designed to help you *see* the difference between God's prophetic program with Israel and the mystery program revealed to the apostle Paul for the Church, the Body of Christ.

When these distinctions are honored, the Bible opens up with breathtaking consistency, harmony, and purpose.

How to Use This Cheat Sheet

This chart is not meant to replace careful Bible study, but to serve as a visual guide while you study the Scriptures for yourself. As you read your Bible, ask three simple questions:

- Who is speaking?
- Who is being spoken to?
- What has God revealed *at that point in time*?

Use this cheat sheet alongside passages in Acts, Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians to help you keep Israel's prophetic program and the Church's mystery program in their proper places. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and allow God's Word to unfold progressively, just as He intended.























A Note for New Readers


If much of this is new to you, you're not alone. The majority of believers have never been taught these distinctions—not because they are hidden in Scripture, but because tradition has often overridden careful study. This is not about winning arguments, joining a camp, or labeling others. It's about letting the Bible say what it says, believing God's Word as written, and rejoicing in the clarity that follows.


Take your time. Search the Scriptures. Ask questions. And above all, trust that God is not the author of confusion.

This one-page guide outlines the key distinctions in Scripture that help us rightly divide (2 Timothy 2:15) between God's prophetic plan for Israel and the mystery program revealed to Paul for the Church, the Body of Christ.

1. Two Programs in God's Plan

| Topic | Prophecy Program (Israel) | Mystery Program (Church) |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Main Figure |  <i>Peter and the 12 apostles</i> |  <i>Paul, apostle to the Gentiles</i> |
| Audience |  <i>Nation of Israel (Jews)</i> |  <i>All nations, Jew and Gentile</i> |
| Gospel |  <i>Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 10:5-7)</i> |  <i>Gospel of Grace (1 Cor. 15:1-4)</i> |
| Purpose |  <i>Earthly Kingdom promised to Israel</i> |  <i>Heavenly inheritance for the Body of Christ</i> |
| Key Revelation |  <i>Prophesied "since the world began" (Acts 3:21)</i> |  <i>Hidden "since the world began" (Rom. 16:25)</i> |
| Law & Ordinances |  <i>Kept and taught (Matt. 5:17-19)</i> |  <i>Not under law (Rom. 6:14; Col. 2:14)</i> |
| Baptism |  <i>Water baptism prominent (Acts 2:38)</i> |  <i>One spiritual baptism (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:5)</i> |
| Holy Spirit |  <i>Given at Pentecost (Acts 2)</i> |  <i>Indwells every believer (1 Cor. 6:19)</i> |
| Focus |  <i>Nation of Israel, temple worship, prophecy fulfilled</i> |  <i>The Body of Christ, heavenly position, mystery</i> |
| Timeline |  <i>Genesis → Acts 7 and Rev. 6–19</i> |  <i>Romans → Philemon (Church Age)</i> |
| Return of Christ |  <i>Second Coming to Earth to reign as King (Rev. 19)</i> |  <i>Rapture of the Church to Heaven (1 Thess. 4:13-18)</i> |

 **Blue Column:** Represents Israel's prophetic program.

 **Gold Column:** Represents the Church's mystery program.

Together, they reveal the fullness of God's plan across dispensations.

2. Summary of the Mystery Revealed to Paul

In Scripture, the word *mystery* (Greek: *mystērion*) refers to truth that was **hidden by God** and **later revealed**. Through the apostle Paul, the risen and glorified Lord Jesus Christ disclosed a body of truth never made known before—truths that form the foundation of the Church, the Body of Christ.

These revelations explain salvation by grace through faith alone, apart from the law; the formation of one new body made up of Jew and Gentile; and our heavenly position in Christ. While all Scripture is inspired

and profitable for learning, the doctrine and instructions for the Church today are found specifically in Paul's epistles (Romans–Philemon).

Paul did not continue Peter's ministry. He was entrusted with a new revelation—the mystery—kept secret since the world began and revealed for us today (Romans 16:25; Galatians 1:11–12).

Paul didn't continue what Peter started—he was entrusted with a brand-new revelation: the creation of a new body of believers, the Church, the Body of Christ (Colossians 1:24–27). This gospel had been hidden in the mind of God since before time began, but was now revealed through Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles. Through him, God began pouring out His grace freely upon all humanity—Jew and Gentile alike—apart from Israel's covenant promises, the Mosaic Law, and temple worship. Salvation is now offered by grace through faith alone in the finished work of Christ: that He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. (Gal. 1:11–12).

3. Key Scriptures to Study

- Romans 11:13, 16:25
- 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, 15:51–52
- Galatians 1:11–12
- Ephesians 2:8–9, 3:1–9
- Colossians 1:24–27
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Closing Thought

Identifying and acknowledging these clear distinctions—rather than blending law and grace, Peter and Paul, or Israel and the Church—does not diminish the Old Testament; it magnifies it. It brings clarity to the four Gospels and sheds light on Paul's epistles, revealing the progressive unfolding of God's plan of redemption. All Scripture is indeed profitable (2 Timothy 3:16), but not all Scripture is written *to* us.

Rightly dividing doesn't mean throwing out the Old Testament—it means recognizing God has different instructions for different people at different times. All Scripture is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16), but not all Scripture is written *to* us.

Let the Bible interpret itself. Believe the words as written. And rejoice in the grace given to us in this dispensation!

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ... may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him." (Ephesians 1:17)

The Mystery Revealed to Paul: Why His Letters Matter

Before moving forward, it's crucial to understand *why* Paul's writings are foundational to everything discussed in this Primer.

The word *mystery* in Scripture comes from the Greek **mystērion (μυστήριον)**, meaning *a secret*—not something mysterious or unknowable, but something previously hidden and later revealed by God.

“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)

The apostle Paul explains that God revealed to him a body of truth that had **never been made known before**—truths entrusted to him by the **ascended, glorified Lord Jesus Christ**. These revelations were given specifically for the Gentiles and for the formation of a new body of believers called **the Church, the Body of Christ**.

Without Paul's letters, there is:

- no clear explanation of salvation by grace through faith apart from the law
- no understanding that believers today are not under the Mosaic Law, but under grace
- no doctrine defining the Church, the Body of Christ

While all Scripture is inspired and profitable for learning (Romans 15:4), **not all Scripture is written to us for doctrine or salvation**. The instructions, doctrine, and position of the Body of Christ are found in Paul's epistles—Romans through Philemon.

Paul himself makes this unmistakably clear:

“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ.” (Ephesians 3:4)

This is where believers in the dispensation of grace must be grounded. If we misunderstand the gospel or confuse our instructions, Scripture becomes muddled and assurance is weakened. But when Paul's apostleship and message are rightly understood, the Bible opens with clarity, harmony, and purpose.

Scripture fits together perfectly from Genesis to Revelation—but it must not be mixed. Law and grace, Peter and Paul, Israel and the Church each have their proper place in God's plan. When these distinctions are honored, confusion fades and confidence grows.

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