

Spiritual Arithmetic

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32

1. The basic operations of mathematics are addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
2. We cannot get far in math without a good knowledge of these fundamental operations; and no matter how far we go in the study of math, we never get away from them.
3. So it is in our study of the word of the Lord. These principles are fundamental.

Addition

1. Many have not learned that we dare not add to the word of God. God's holy word closes with this fearful warning.

Revelation 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

- A. In the book of Revelation there are some awful plagues mentioned. These plagues will be added to the one that adds to the word of the Lord.
- B. May no one ever be guilty of adding to the Bible!

2. In 2 John 9 we have the same warning in a little different language.

2 John 9 **Whoever transgresses** and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

A. We see that we must not go beyond what is written. When we do, it means we do not have God or the Son.

3. We are added to the church when we obey the gospel of Christ.

A. The addition takes place in heaven. The Lord adds the saved to the church and the saved are those that obey.

B. It is impossible to be saved and remain out of the church. The same thing that saves us makes us members of the Lord's church.

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord **added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

1) How were they being saved? Through baptism.
Acts 2:38

4. All of us are to add to our faith.
2 Peter 1:5-8

A. If we do not add these, we will fall; if we do add them, we shall never fall.

B. May God help each one of us to be good in addition. Let's not add the wrong things.

Subtraction

1. We must not subtract from the word.

Revelation 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- A. This would be a terrible consequence - to have our names taken out of the book of life. We cannot afford to have this happen to us. We would have eternity to regret it!**

2. There are many things we must subtract from our lives. One is any form of wickedness.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- A. When we are “laying aside” we are subtracting. Note that the Lord says “all filthiness.” Some are willing to put aside part but not all!**

3. We should subtract all fleshly defilements.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

A. Things such as malice, guile, hypocrisies, envies, and all evil speaking from our lives. There is so much of this in the world today.

1) **Malice:** spite, ill will, grudge, animosity.

2) **Guile:** crafty, cunning, treachery deceit.

3.) **Hypocrisy:** Professing to be something that we are not. It is play acting.

a. Look at how much trouble has been caused in the church because these have not been subtracted entirely from God's children!

4. All bitterness should be subtracted.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking **be put away from you**, with all malice.

A. We need to study our subtraction lesson to ensure that these things are not part of our lives.

Multiplication

1. **There are many things which should be multiplied. We see this in Jude 2.**

Jude 2 Mercy, peace, and love **be multiplied to you.**

- A. **Notice three main things should be multiplied. God knows how important these are.**
- B. **Every individual must constantly strive to be better in these areas of our life.**

2. **Paul uses this lesson of multiplication in 2 Corinthians 9:10.**

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, **supply and multiply the seed** you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

- A. **How thankful we ought to be that when we sow good seed it is greatly multiplied!**

3. **The first congregation of the church in Jerusalem grew rapidly.**

Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and **the number of the disciples multiplied** greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- A. **“Multiplied” is sometimes rendered “continued to increase” in some other translations.**
- B. **If each Christian could gain one other soul during a year, the church would certainly multiply.**

Division

1. It takes real study to know how to properly divide. Especially the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:15

- A. “Rightly dividing” is sometimes translated “handling accurately” in some other translations.

- 1) The answer will be wrong if we do not take the time to study to learn how to divide properly.

2. It takes hard work to keep from dividing the church.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and **that there be no divisions among you**, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- A. Unfortunately, there have been many divisions in the church. These have been brought about by not speaking the same thing (according to God’s instructions and will).

- 1) We need to speak where the Bible speaks, quit speaking when the Bible quits, and not quit until it quits. If we all did this there would be no divisions.

3. Those that cause division should be dealt with.
Romans 16:17-18

- A. When individuals that cause divisions are not dealt with then divisions will continue and get worse.

- B. Church dividers serve themselves and not Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

- 1. We need to learn our spiritual arithmetic.**
- 2. We need to learn when to add, subtract, multiply, and divide in accordance with the Word of God.**
- 3. A smart mathematical Christian will have harmony with his fellow man and with God.**

Place

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