

Scripture Reading:

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Effective Bible Study

Bible Study

- Our presence here today indicates something ...
- How can we know how to please God?
 - Ephesians 3:3-5; 1 Corinthians 2:11-12
- What will make a difference in our lives?

Bible Study

- Do we **value** the word of God which has been given to us by grace?
- If one were to place a price tag on our Bible in direct proportion to our devotion and dedication to it, what would that price tag reveal?

Bible Study

- We must recognize the need and the value in studying God's word.
- Hopefully everyone here would say Bible study is something we should do ... but HOW?
- How can we make our Bible study an effective agent for change in our lives?
- How can we tap into the *dunamis* power that is found within the pages of scripture? (Romans 1:16)

Types of Bible Study

- Group Studies - Acts 20:18-20
 - "... teaching you publicly and from house to house ..."
- Also needs to include our personal study and meditation on God's word.

Reading versus Studying

- There is a need for both **reading** and **studying** God's word in our lives.
- The difference in the two being a matter of depth and application.

Reading versus Studying

- To study is to allow for time for meditation (Psalms 1:2; 119:97-99) and time to expand our thoughts through **related scriptures** and the **details** in the inspired words.
 - This is how the word of God comes alive! (Hebrews 4:12).

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

A Proper Attitude

- An attitude of **reverence**.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 4:11; Acts 20:27; Jeremiah 26:2
- An attitude of **necessity**.
 - Matthew 5:6; Job 23:11-12; Psalms 119:11, 36, 40, 47
- An attitude of **personal application**
 - John 21:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Matthew 7:3

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

A Proper Attitude

- An attitude of **duty**.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:12
- An attitude of **relevance and application**.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

Planning.

- Requires effective use of our time (Ephesians 5:15-17) – we must set aside the time.
- Planning involves the concept of discipline – 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- We need to plan what to study.

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

Purpose

- To become "**Christ-like**." (Romans 8:28-29; Ephesians 4:13)
- To be able to **overcome temptations** and find the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)
- To "**grow up**" and become a mature Christian (Ephesians 4:13; Hebrews 5:14 – 6:1)
- To be able to **defend the truth** (Jude 3; 1 Peter 3:15)
- To **share the good news** with others (2 Timothy 2:2)

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

Concentration –

- Con = with; centre = center – **to center your mind**.
- It begins with a mind-set (Colossians 3:1-2; Romans 8:5-8)
- Practically, do we do our personal Bible study in a place that is free from distractions?

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

The right tools –

- It starts with a Bible! **Your** Bible!
 - Needs to be an appropriate translation and not a paraphrase.
- Other tools? Reference tools. Be a student.

There is no substitute for simply knowing what the text says!

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

Frequency –

- Public Bible studies don't accomplish much if we are irregular in our attendance of the classes.
- Personal Bible study – must be continual and regular. Joshua 1:7-8; Psalms 1:1-3; Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Effective Bible Study Requires ...

That we put into practice what we study –

- It is not enough to just be a "learner." We must also be "doers." (James 1:22-27; Matthew 7:21-27).
- Ezra set his heart to study, to practice and to teach the law of the Lord. (Ezra 7:10)

Effective Bible Study Produces Results ...

- ✓ It will **accomplish** what God desires. Isaiah 55:8-11
- ✓ It will **transform** your life. Romans 12:1-2
- ✓ It will enable yourself to be "**renewed day by day.**" 2 Corinthians 4:16
- ✓ It is God's **power unto salvation.** Romans 1:16
- ✓ **It will save your soul!** James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-25