

Things Believed Among Us

The Importance of Bible Study

2 Timothy 2:15-16

Introduction

- A. We value things in monetary, nominal and in real or influential value in our lives
- B. Often people classify the Bible as their favorite book though they seldom read or study it.
- C. This morning we wish to offer encouragement to study the Bible
- D. Just how important is Bible Study?
 - 1. Two articles from days gone by
 - a. Why is the Church Losing its Young People?
 - b. Think it Over
- E. Did you see the quiz in this week's bulletin – How many did you and your family get right – Give the correct answers

I. Why Bible Study Is Important

- A. Because the bible possesses the power of sanctification
 - 1. "Sanctification" means "to set apart"; as used in the Bible, to set apart for God's purpose
 - 2. The Word of God is the means by which God does this
 - a. As praised by David in his psalm - **Psalm 19:7-11**
 - b. As mentioned in the prayer of Jesus - **John 17:17**
- B. Because the bible possesses the power of preservation
 - 1. A lack of knowledge has always destroyed the people of God - **Hosea 4:6**
 - 2. But the YOUNG can keep their ways pure by the Word of God - **Psalm 119:9**
 - 3. And the ELDERS were exhorted to keep the church by the Word - **Acts 20:28-32**
- C. Because the bible possesses the power of salvation and condemnation
 - 1. Received properly, it can save our souls! - **James 1:21**
 - 2. It will be the standard by which we will be judged - **John 12:48**
- D. Will the Word save us, or will it condemn us?
- E. Careful study and application of the Bible will make the difference

II. Why Bible Study Is Often Neglected

- A. Some people just take the preacher's word
 - 1. For this reason, they do not study for themselves
 - 2. Most preachers are good men, but they can still be wrong - **Acts 18:24-26**
 - 3. It is our responsibility to test the spirits - **1 John 4:1-2**
- B. Some people say they can't get anything out of the bible
 - 1. This may be because they read it so little, or because they do not know how to go about studying it
 - 2. Often it is because they do not use a modern English translation
 - 3. Most have simply made little effort to understand it
 - 4. Yet Paul assumed that people could understand it if they read it - **Ephesians 3:3-4**

- C. Some people say they don't have the time
 1. People who DO study are busy too, but they leave off things that are less important
 2. As Jesus commanded, we must put the things of the kingdom of God FIRST – **Matthew 6:33**
- D. There is really no excuse for neglecting the Word of God
- E. In view of its importance, we would be foolish to do so.

III. Some Simple Reasons to Study the Bible

- A. We are commanded to – **2 Timothy 2:15 – 2 Peter 1:5-11**
- B. It provides us with the opportunity to see ourselves as God does – **James 1:22-23**
- C. It enables us to gain knowledge to be able to teach others – **Matthew 28:18-20 – Hebrews 5:12 – 2 Timothy 2:2 – 1 Peter 3:15**
 1. We are afraid that someone will ask us a question that we cannot answer
 2. With proper study we can obtain the knowledge to answer those questions
 3. I realize that we may not be a walking encyclopedia with every answer on the tip of our tongue, but through Bible study we will have the ability to answer those questions
 4. A good response would be I do not have the answer at this moment, but I will find the answer
- D. To be able to defend the faith – **Jude 3**
 1. The question about no music in the church
- E. To feed our souls – **Hebrews 5:12-14**
- F. Because our judgment will be by God's Word – **John 12:48**

Conclusion

- A. **Proverbs 1:7**
- B. **Proverbs 3:6**
- C. The Bible is the book that tells us how to live and is the book that many look to for comfort in times of need
- D. It is truly the Book of books.
- E. Invitation