

The Importance of Bible Study

Manners and Methods

2 Timothy 2:15-16

Introduction

- A. Studying the Bible is one of the most profitable activities one can be engaged in IF he/she is determined to understand and then apply the teachings!
- B. There are some basic factors one must take into consideration to Understand as Mike has covered over the past 2 weeks
 - 1. Who is speaking
 - 2. To Whom was it written
 - 3. When was it written
 - 4. Context - Before and After

I. Simple Rules to Bible Study

- A. Approach the Bible with a proper attitude
 - 1. Many approach the Bible to prove what they already believe
 - 2. Others seek to find fault with the Bible
- B. Have respect and love for the Bible, the truth
 - 1. Remember that a disciple is one who is a learner
 - 2. Love of the truth is a prerequisite
- C. Approach the your study with order and a system
 - 1. The Bible has natural divisions
 - 2. Study all the Bible has to say about a particular subject
 - 3. Apply the 3 questions rule
- D. Set a regular Schedule
- E. Employ a variety of methods
 - 1. Thematic – By Subject
 - 2. Textual – By Verse or by Book
 - 3. Character Studies – Life of Christ
 - 4. Word Studies -
 - 5. Geographic Studies
- F. Use the resources that are available to you – More about this later
- G. Prayerful consideration
 - 1. Begin your study with prayer
 - 2. As you study, ask God for the wisdom and strength to understand
 - 3. End your study with prayer

II. Utilizing The Resources Around You

- A. Various Translation
 - 1. Using various translations can help make understanding the Bible easier
 - 2. Some of these include KJV – NKJV – ASV(1901) – ESV – RSV
- B. A Good Bible Dictionary
 - 1. Not knowing the meaning of words is the most common cause for not understanding the Bible
 - 2. An ordinary English dictionary can be used, but there are special Bible dictionaries that are

- more useful and accurate
- 3. A good one is "Vine's Expository Dictionary"

C A Reliable Concordance

- 1. This useful work contains words in alphabetical order along with a list of verses in the Bible where they are found
- 2. It can be a great time saver in finding verses based on a given subject

D. Bible Encyclopedias

- 1. This type of reference gives detailed articles on the people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible
- 2. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

E. A Set of Commentaries

- 1. These are books written by scholars commenting on various books of the Bible
- 2. One must be careful, as these scholars are not inspired and are subject to mistakes
- 3. But their insights and the fruit of their own study can be helpful

F. Other Resources

- 1. Books on CD
- 2. Research Online
- 3. E-Sword – A Free Program That contains all of the above
- 4. Follow links from our website

F. These and other reference helps can be found in the church library and are available for your use

Conclusion

- A. Such aids can be a great help, but make sure that the conclusions you draw are based upon your own careful study of God's Word!
- B. What is most important is that we are engaged in some sort of consistent, systematic study of the Bible so that we are ever being blessed by the Word of God!
- C. Invitation