

Scripture Reading:
2 Timothy 2:14-26

Effective Bible Study

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Bible Study

- Our presence here today indicates something...
- How can we know how to please God?
 - Eph. 3:3-5;
 - "...when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ..."
 - 1 Cor. 2:11-12
 - "...that we might know the things freely given to us by God..."

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 it's 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? (Rom. 1:16)

**How Can We Have
Effective Bible
Study?**

Types of Bible Study

- **Group Studies**
 - This includes our Bible classes and sermons here at the building and the group studies we have in peoples homes. (cf. Acts 20:18-20)
 - "...teaching you publicly and from house to house..."
 - This also needs to include our personal study and meditation on God's word.

Types of Bible Study

- We do ourselves a great disservice, and actually great harm, if we limit our Bible study to once or twice a week when we gather together!

Reading vs. 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 vs. Studying

- To study is to allow for time for meditation (Ps. 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! (Heb. 4:12).

Effective Bible Study Requires...

1. A **Proper Attitude**
 - a) An attitude of **reverence**.
 - There is a difference between the words of men and the word of God. 1 Thess. 2:13
 - The words of the Bible are inspired (2 Tim. 3:16) – that is, "**God-breathed**"
 - Thus, our reverence for the word of God will not allow us to add to or take away from His word (1 Peter 4:11; Acts 20:27; Jer. 26:2)

Effective Bible Study Requires...

1. A **Proper Attitude**
 - b) An attitude that says "**I NEED IT!**".
 - Do we "**hunger and thirst**" for God's will? (Matt. 5:6)
 - Job said, "My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the command of His lips; **I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.** (Job 23:11-12)

Effective Bible Study Requires...

- David had such an attitude as he stated in Psalms 119...
 - "Thy word I have treasured in my heart..." vs. 11
 - "...Incline my heart to Thy testimonies..." vs. 36
 - "...I long for Thy precepts..." vs. 40
 - "...I shall delight in Thy commandments, which I love..." vs. 47

Effective Bible Study Requires...

1. A **Proper Attitude**
 - c) An attitude of **personal application**
 - We're **not** to study with the attitude expressed by Peter in John 21:21, "Lord, and **what about this man?**"
 - Self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5)
 - Address the "log that is in your own eye" (Matt. 7:3)

Effective Bible Study Requires...

1. A **Proper Attitude**
 - d) The attitude that **God requires it**.
 - We are instructed to diligently apply ourselves to the accurate handling of God's word (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - We are expected to grow from student to teacher over time from our study (Heb. 5:12)

Effective Bible Study Requires...

1. A **Proper Attitude**
 - e) An attitude of **relevance & application**.
 - Many suggest the Bible is ill-equipped to help us deal with today's modern problems.
 - Rather, we must believe that God's word will make us everything we need to be. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Effective Bible Study Requires...

2. **Planning**.
 - When Bible study is a mere after-thought – something that takes place only after everything else is done – little good will come.
 - Requires effective use of our time (Eph. 5:15-16) – we must set aside the time.
 - Planning involves the concept of discipline – 1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Tim. 4:7-8
 - We need to plan what to study.

Effective Bible Study Requires...

3. **Purpose**
 - To become "**Christ-like**". (Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 4:13)
 - To be able to **overcome temptations** and find the way of escape (1 Cor. 10:12-13)
 - To "**grow up**" and become a mature Christian (Eph. 4:13; Heb. 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 Tim. 2:2)

Effective Bible Study Requires...

3. **Concentration** –
- Con = with; centre = center – **to center your mind.**
 - It begins with a mind-set (Col. 3:1-2; Rom. 8:5-8)
 - Practically, do we do our personal Bible study in a place that is free from distractions?
 - Do we strive not to be a distraction in our collective Bible studies?

Effective Bible Study Requires...

4. **The right tools** –
- It starts with a Bible! **Your** Bible!
 - Know **your** Bible!
 - Needs to be an appropriate translation and not a paraphrase.

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

Effective Bible Study Requires...

4. **The right tools** –
- Other tools can help –
 - Pens, paper, highlighters, etc. (are you truly a student?)
 - Distinguish between reference works and simply the thoughts of men. (Concordances, Bible dictionaries, lexicons, maps, etc. verses commentaries)
 - Computer software may be helpful.
 - **Be very careful!**

Effective Bible Study Requires...

5. **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; Deut. 6:4-6

Effective Bible Study Requires...

6. **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; Matt. 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** that God desires. Isaiah 55:9-11
- ✓ It will **transform** your life. Rom. 12:1-2
- ✓ It will enable yourself to be "**renewed day by day**" 2 Cor. 4:16
- ✓ It is God's **power unto salvation**. Rom. 1:16
- ✓ **It will save your soul!** James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-25