

Study to Shew Thyself Approved

Getting the Word of God in You

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;” – Colossians 3:16

1. Prerequisites for Effective Bible Study

- a. Salvation – 1Cor 2:14-15, 1Thes 2:13
- b. God’s Perfectly Preserved Word – 2Cor 2:17, 2Tim 2:15
- c. Bible Belief (not doubt) – Rom 3:4, 1Cor 13:8, Psa 118:8

2. Co-requisites for Effective Bible Study

- a. Be around sound doctrine – 1Thes 5:21, Titus 2:1&8, Rom 12:9
- b. Avoid the bad – Rom 16:17, 1Tim 6:3-5, Eph 5:6-7, 2Tim 4:3-4 & 2:16-17
- c. You are what you eat – Deut 8:3, Mat 4:4, Col 3:16, Gal 5:7-9, Eph 4:14-15

3. The Why and What of Personal Bible Study

- a. Each of us will answer to God alone – Rom 14:10-12, 1Cor 3:8 & 13 & 4:1-2
- b. We have been given a job to do for God – 2Cor 5:18, 1Tim 2:4, Eph 3:9 & 6:19-20
- c. Study = work YOU do IN the word – Gal 6:4-5, 2Cor 5:9-10, 1Thes 5:11, 2Tim 2:15
- d. Reading the bible is necessary, but studying is more than just reading – 1Tim 4:13
- e. Studying the bible yourself is work, but good & necessary – 1Tim 5:17, 2Cor 6:4-7

4. Helpful Tips for Personal Bible Study

- a. Set aside a specific, consistent time & place without distraction; be realistic!
- b. Bible knowledge is not a checklist, but a never exhausted supply of God’s truth
- c. Start by using *only* the bible and concordance (books/commentaries/etc. distract)
- d. *Then* compare your study with what others have done, if you’re curious
- e. Confirm what you are learning with others (spouse, family, mature saints, Q&A time)
- f. Familiarity is key – our minds are full of what we care about/spend time & effort on
- g. Repeated exposure is the best way to solidify & recall the info (not memorization)
- h. Read/study full passages and books for content, context, and to prevent proof-texting
- i. Write things down: jot down thoughts, ideas, references, make lists, collect verses
- j. Study as if you have to teach someone else instead of yourself (outlines help a lot!)
- k. Balance between keeping yourself challenged and biting off more than you can chew
- l. Beware of historical/cultural/factual nitnoids, suppositions, & extra-biblical “insight”
- m. Time is best spent strengthening fundamental doctrines, not chasing pet doctrines or finding some new thing
- n. The goal is not to be better than someone else, but to continue growing in the Lord

5. Watch Out for These Common Excuses

- a. “I don’t want to / I just don’t feel like it” – Eph 4:1, Col 1:10, Gal 5:24, Rom 12:11
- b. “I don’t have time / I’m too busy” – 1Cor 7:22-23, Eph 5:15-17, Col 3:1-3 & 23-24
- c. “I don’t plan on teaching a group of people” – Eph 4:15, 1Cor 12:22-25
- d. “I don’t read well / I didn’t do well with school/comprehension/etc.” – 1Cor 1:26
- e. “I open the bible & my eyes gloss over/I can’t concentrate” – 1Tim 4:15-16, Rom 8:5