

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

Int.

1. Aim: To encourage all of us to study the Bible
2. II Tim. 2:15 - Isa. 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read;..."
3. Many people do not have very much knowledge of the Bible.
4. We expect those outside the church to be weak regarding Bible knowledge, but so often those who have been members of the Lord's body for many years have only basic Bible knowledge.
5. If we are going to defend from external and internal dangers, we need to be well armed with the truth.
6. Why study the Bible?

Discussion

I. IT IS COMMANDED.

- A. Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- B. The 1901 American Standard Version translates this verse, "Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth."
- C. Study
 1. The original Greek work for "study" (spoudason [spoudason]) goes beyond our standard definition of "study," and indicates diligence and endeavoring, studying in the traditional academic sense is certainly part of that. Use speed!
 2. The word literally means to make effort, be prompt or earnest, - Endeavor
 3. Verb English = to read in detail especially with the intention of learning

D. John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

1. The word Search = to seek, i.e. (fig.) to investigate - inquiry
2. We need to study, make an effort to learn the scriptures for they give the information about Jesus we need to know in order to have eternal life.

II. DESTRUCTION COMES FROM NOT STUDYING

- A. The Lord warned in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."
- B. Illustration: "If all the neglected Bibles were dusted simultaneously, we would have a record dust storm and the sun would go into eclipse for a whole week".
- C. The people in the days of Noah were destroyed for a lack of knowledge
1. The people became so wicked that God destroyed them from the face of the earth - Gen. 6:5-8
 2. Why were they so wicked? It was not that God had not given them His message
 3. It was because they hated His message and rejected it. They did not want to know God's will nor did they want to do it. They were destroyed.
- D. As we see so many problems threatening our society and shaking its very foundation, we can trace such actions back to the fact that most have no inkling of what the Bible truly says.

1. Origin of earth and man and all things therein - Bible Tells us - Gen. 1
 2. Men have invented a theory called evolution - if this is accepted then we will reject the Bible account of creation and then everything in the Bible is rejected
 3. If we do this we will be destroyed - no ethics - morals
 4. John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
- E. Many who have some knowledge have had it distorted and warped by years of false teaching. III. Bible Baloney
1. False teachers can spread their false teaching when we do not know the truth!
 2. We need to study the Bible lest we be destroyed by error.

III. IT IS WISE

- A. We would not trust our money in just any bank or the care of children to just anyone off the street. III. \$500,000 Retirement
1. Even more so, how careful should we be about what we believe to be the truth?
 2. Our eternal destiny is at stake !
 3. Do we simply accept what the minister or Bible class teacher presents?
- B. We need to be like those at Berea. We are told in Acts 17:11 that they ". . . were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
1. "Searched" = scrutinize, investigate, examine. They wanted to be sure that the message they heard was in harmony with what they could read in the Bible.
 2. You need to be sure - How can you do that? By studying the Bible !!!
 3. Our soul is at stake and we must be sure of the teaching in the Bible.

IV. WE WILL PROPERLY GROW

- A. All of us expect a newborn child to grow.
1. At the first sign of failure to grow, medical assistance will be sought.
 2. We need to be as quick to react when the lack of spiritual growth is noted.
- B. The writer of **Hebrews in 5:12-14** stated, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."
- C. Have we been Christians for many years, maybe even decades, and yet know very little beyond what we did when we first became Christians?
1. If that is the case, then we are not properly growing and developing.
 2. We need to study - Have you read the Whole Bible?
 3. The Bible was written in such a way that we can understand it
 4. Eph. 3:3-4 "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)"
 - a. Understand = perceive, comprehend
 - b. The Bible is not a book of mysteries that cannot be understood
 - c. The primary purpose of the Bible is to teach us how to please God so that He can bless us here and save us when this life is over.
- D. We need to study the Bible so we can grow and mature spiritually !!!

V. WE CAN TEACH OTHERS

- A. In I Peter 3:15 we are told, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Be read = be prepared
- B. Can we explain with confidence the plan of salvation to someone while showing Bible references? Organization, worship
- C. Can we show why we are not just another religious group, but the "one body?"
- D. This is the way the gospel spreads.
- E. Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

VI. WE WILL BE JUDGED BY THE WORDS OF THE BIBLE

- A. When you were in school, did you ever take an "open-book" test? The teacher permitted you to use a textbook and maybe other sources while testing.
- B. Though such tests were easier than the normal examinations, you still had to be familiar with the material and know where to look for the answers.
- C. The same principle applies in our Christianity.
1. We have all the information available to us by which we will be judged.
 2. There will be no surprises at the Judgment.
 3. We are told by Jesus in John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

- D. This is the book which will be used at the judgment - Rev. 20:12
1. It tells me about sin and what to do about it - Rom. 3:23 Rom. 6:23
 2. The gift of God is eternal life - this comes through Christ -
 3. Rom. 6:4ff - baptized into Christ - raised to walk in newness of life
- E. This book tells me how to live and be prepared for that day of Judgement -Ps.119:11

VII. I LOVE THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK THEREFORE I WILL STUDY IT

- A. Psalms has several passages about loving the law and loving God
1. PS 119:97 "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."
 2. 1 JN 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
- B. How to enjoy reading and studying the Bible
1. Illustration "The story is told of a young lady who read a book, and, having completed it, remarked that it was the dullest book she had read in many a day. Not long after this experience she met a young man, and in the course of time their friendship deepened into love and they became engaged. During a visit in the home of her fiancée one evening she said to him: "I have a book at home which was written by a man whose name and even initials are precisely the same as yours. Is not that a coincidence?" "I do not think so," he replied. "Why not?" "For the simple reason that I wrote the book." The young lady went home and started reading the book again. She sat up until the early morning hours to read the book the second time. When it was completed, it seemed to her the most interesting book she had ever read. It was not dull at all. She found it was fascinating. What is the secret? She knew and loved the Author !

2. You will enjoy the greatest of all books, the Bible, God's word, if you love the author. "We love Him because He first loved us." 1 Jn. 4:19

Conclusion

1. When we sign an important contract regarding property transfers, a will, or other legal documents, we would be well advised to read and understand every word and phrase. If necessary, we should obtain assistance.
2. How much more then should we examine every word of the Bible?
3. Yet many Christians do not know what is contained in much of the Bible.
4. There are probably many chapters, and even entire books, that are completely foreign to some children of God.
5. III. Bible Packed
6. We need to engage in a daily study of the Bible. Why?
 - (1) It is commanded
 - (2) Destruction from not studying
 - (3) It is wise
 - (4) We will properly grow
 - (5) We can teach others
 - (6) Be judged by Words of Bible
 - (7) Love the Author
7. ISA 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them."
8. When we become too busy to spend sufficient time with the Bible, we are too busy.
9. Make a sincere investigation of God's Word a top priority every day.

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