

Each One Teach One Discipleship Lessons

Part Two:

FAITH THAT GROWS UP:

Growing in Your Faith in God

LESSON SEVEN:

The DISCIPLINE of STUDY

II Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Bible teachers who want to point out the importance of Bible Study often use this scripture to establish their point, because it uses the word "study." Actually, the passage **does** support the need for knowing the Word of God, but not because it uses the word "study." In this case, the old *King James* English doesn't mean what it appears to say. In the 1600's, "study" meant to "be diligent" in any matter. So in the modern *New International Version* this passage reads:

II Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

In any case, we really **do** need to be "diligent" (and disciplined) in study of the Bible, the written "word of truth"!

In this lesson we will consider what the scriptures have to say about the value of knowing what the Bible contains. As you go through this lesson **examine yourself and see how you measure up.**

If you see that you fall short, **realize that you need to begin to develop more self-discipline in this area.**

At the beginning of His ministry, when Jesus was led into the wilderness to be faced with the greatest temptations from the Devil, He didn't need a "fresh revelation" from his Father to resist the Evil One. He simply said, "It is written..."

[Matthew 4:3-4]

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on _____, but on every _____ that comes from the mouth of God.'"

***** "It is written" where? In the scriptures that were available at the time Jesus walked this earth-- what we now call the Old Testament:

[Deuteronomy 8:3]

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on _____ but on every _____ that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

***** How can you "live by every word" of God if you have never even read all of the written record of God's words available in the Bible? Many Christians are waiting for some "personal prophecy" to give them guidance for daily life and answer their questions, when the answers to almost all of their needs is **already available** in the Bible gathering dust on their coffee table!



The Latest in Study Bibles:

Bible Lite

- * Fewer Commands
- * Less History
- * Less Guilt

"Tastes Great, Less Filling!"

Christians sometimes joke about incomplete versions of the Bible like the "Lite" Bible above. (Yes- there really IS a *Reader's Digest Condensed Bible!*) Some Christians condemn any such concept that would leave out any part of the scriptures, even for a special purpose such as introducing young people to the Bible. Yet many of those same Christians have effectively "condensed" their own Bible-- by failing to read and study all of it!

***** Many Christians seem to believe that there are "unimportant" parts of the Bible that they can ignore. Not understanding the **whole gospel**, they discount parts they don't understand, parts that seem boring, even parts they disagree with! But the Bible is clear that there is a purpose for **all** of the record of God's dealings with mankind as recorded in both Old and New Testament:

[II Tim 3:16-17]

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly _____ for every _____.

[I Cor 10:11]

These things happened to them [ancient Israel] as examples and were written down as _____ for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

[Romans 10:17]

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the _____ of Christ.

[II Tim 3:15]

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you _____ for _____ through faith in Christ Jesus.

***** One of the purposes for knowing the scriptures well is often ignored in some "Charismatic" circles. Many immature Christians accept every new "prophecy" they hear at "miracle campaigns." But what does the scripture say about such prophecy?

[I Cor 14:29]

*Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should
_____ what is said.*

***** What does the scripture mean when it says "weigh carefully"? Too many think it means to see how it "feels" based on some "emotional," supposedly "spiritual" internal response. But what does the Bible say?

[Acts 17:11]

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and _____ every day to see if what Paul said was true.

[Isaiah 8:20]

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak _____ this word, they have no _____ of dawn.

***** Modern "prophecies" and preaching that is truly "inspired" (which literally means "God-breathed") will never contradict the clear teaching of scripture!

One of the most important reasons for personal Bible Study is so that you may be **sure** you are standing on a firm foundation.

Have you felt a conviction of the need to improve in this area? If you are seeing clearly that you are falling short, then the second step to becoming disciplined will be to ...

**commit yourself to developing a personal strategy
to break out of old habits of neglect of study.**

In the same way a "prayer partner" can be of help to you in the growth process of becoming disciplined in prayer, a "study partner" can help you establish a new habit of regular study. (Although your study partner and your prayer partner **might** be the same person, they can just as effectively be two different people.) You can study together and discuss scripture together, and encourage each other to **grow up** in faith in God through becoming disciplined in Bible study.

In our next lesson we will consider

THE DISCIPLINE OF TIME

REVIEW:

1. **Faith** grows through **knowing the written word** of God.
2. The **written word** is part of our **defense against Satan**.

3. The **written word** is part of a **solid foundation of faith**.

4. Knowing the **written word** requires **personal effort**.

5. Effective Bible Study requires **self-discipline**.

6. Effective Bible Study will include **ALL of the Bible**.

MEMORY VERSES:

LESSON SEVEN MEMORY VERSE:

II Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed

**and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

LESSON FIVE MEMORY VERSE:

I Corinthians 9:27: I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

LESSON SIX MEMORY VERSE:

Philippians 4:6-7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Jesus use the scripture to resist the Devil?

2. Why is it necessary to "weigh carefully" modern "prophecies"?

3. Why didn't Paul criticize the Bereans for doubting his word?

4. Are there any parts of the Bible you find yourself avoiding? Why?

5. What would you tell someone who says "Reading the Bible is boring."

6. Write II Timothy 3:16-17 from memory:

All scripture is

7. Recite I Corinthians 9:27 & Philippians. 4:6-7 from memory.

(I beat my body...)

(Do not be anxious...)