

CHF

3RD APRIL 2020

THEME: DISCIPLESHIP – HOW TO GROW DEEP IN CHRIST

TOPIC: HOW A DISCIPLE STUDIES THE BIBLE?

TEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17; 2 TIMOTHY 2:15; JOHN 17:17

INTRODUCTION

How does a disciple of Jesus study the Bible? There is no one single, “right” answer to this question. Since people are different, they will study differently. In spite of all our different temperaments and interests, there are principles that will help us to see Jesus more clearly in our study of the Scriptures. Focusing on these principles will help us grow in our relationship with God as we get to know Him through His Word.

Principle 1: Seek to be transformed – Read 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12

a. If all scripture is there to be a benefit to us, how do we get that benefit?

By reading it, understanding it, and applying it.

b. How have you experienced the Bible as a living, active thing that has impacted your life?

c. How often do you take time to read God’s Word?

d. What benefit have you found when you are able to read on a regular basis?

Principle 2: Be Consistent in your study – Read Deuteronomy 6:7 (NLT)

Bible study is not a sprint but a marathon. A disciple cannot afford to start and stop in his pursuit of the Master.

a. How can we study for quality rather than quantity?

b. How might that help us be consistent over the long haul?

c. What does the text above say about our attitude to studying God’s Word?

If we want to be spiritually healthy we must consume God’s Word on a more regular basis.

Principle 3: Be Meditative in your study – Read Psalm 1:1-6

a. What does it really mean to meditate on the word?

Think about what you read – is it diligent thought that seeks to understand and apply the word of God as we read it.

b. What blessing comes from considering God’s Word on a regular basis?

This will also involve prayer that will bring us nearer to God.

Principle 4: Ask Questions – Read Acts 17:11

As you study God’s Word, ask yourself the following questions:

a. Who? Who is speaking? To whom? Of whom?

b. What? What is said? What did the speaker mean by it? What did his hearers understand (or misunderstand) him to mean?

c. Why? Why was it said? What in the context prompted this comment? So what? What difference does this make to me?

d. How? How does this relate to the rest of the Scripture? How can I apply this lesson?

Principle 5: Seek to Do God’s Will – Read Matthew 5:6; Psalm 119:2

It should be noted that Bible study is not an end in itself; rather a means to the end of becoming more like Jesus and in doing God’s will.

Notice that the text did not say hunger and thirst for **knowledge**. Our hunger must be for **righteousness** (or Christlikeness).

CONCLUSION

The only way to apply scripture is to understand what it says. This takes investigation.

Investigation requires we ask questions and find answers. Is there a promise to be received, a command to be obeyed, a warning to be remembered, advice to be cherished, a glory in which to rejoice, a principle to understand, or an example to follow or avoid?

The purpose of Bible study is to allow God’s truth to change us and fill us with the kind of life God wants for His people.