

Studying God's Word

II Timothy 2:15

I. Motivation for studying the Word of God

Study – maximum, diligent, persistent effort (imperative)

to shew thyself approved –

shew (present) – To present oneself for inspection

approved – Accepted after testing or scrutiny

a workman who needeth not to be ashamed – The effort in his work and the quality of his work should not produce shame under the scrutiny of Almighty God.

workman – usually described a laborer for hire

rightly dividing the word of truth –

rightly dividing – to cut straight

word of truth - the whole of Scripture

II. Hindrances to studying the Word of God

- A. Aversion to reading and studying
- B. Boring
- C. Lack of understanding
- D. Too busy
- E. Lazy
- F. Disbelief in the profitability of the Word of God
- G. Frustration over lack of consistency

III. The importance of having the big picture

- A. Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy)
- B. Historical (Joshua – Esther)

- C. Poetical (Job – Song of Solomon)
- D. Prophetical (Isaiah – Malachi)
- E. Gospels (Matthew – John)
Revelation of the person and work of Christ
- F. Acts – First 30 yrs. of church history
Proclamation of the person and work of Christ
- G. Epistles (Romans – Jude)
Explanation of the person and work of Christ
- H. Revelation
Prophecy regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ

IV. Essential components for studying the Word of God

- A. Read – Have a plan!
- B. Investigate – Book, chapter, passage, verse, person, topic
 - 1. Observation – Discover what it says (What do I see?)
 - Who? - Who wrote it? Who are the recipients? Who are the people in the text?
 - What? – What are the main events or ideas?
 - Where? – Where are the events in the text taking place?
 - When? – When was it written? Is the timing important? When did the events in the text take place? When will the events of the text take place?
 - Why? – Why was it written?
 - How? – How did the events unfold? How did the people in the text act or respond?
 - What is the big idea? – What is God communicating in this text?

2. Interpretation – Discover what it means (What does it mean?)

a. Dictionaries & encyclopedias

English dictionary

Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

b. Word study helps

Strong's Concordance

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

c. Commentaries

J. Vernon McGee

Matthew Henry

Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord and Zuck (2 Vol.)

“*Be Series*” by Warren Wiersbe

d. Study Bibles

MacArthur Study Bible

Open Study Bible

3. Application – Discover how it works (How should I respond?)

So what? What are you going to do about it? How do you use it in your own life?

“Once you know what a passage means, you are not only responsible for putting it into practice in your own life, but accountable if you don't.”

- Kay Arthur