

"What it Takes to Study God's Word"

(Selected Scriptures)

I. Diligence.

- A. It will begin with a high view of Scripture.
- B. The second aspect of effective Bible study is a basic knowledge of the text.
- C. Then you can begin to search out what it means by what it says.
- D. There is no real reason to be ignorant about the truth of Scripture because it is available, (Proverbs 1:20)
 1. It doesn't take somebody who knows the secret to unlock it.
 2. And God even promises that He'll assist in the process, pouring out His Spirit so that His words can be known.
- E. We are not called only to know it, but obviously to put it into practice.

II. Obedience

- A. James 1:21 says we are to put the Word of God into practice in our lives.
- B. That will, as Joshua 1:8 says, make our way prosperous and lead us to good success,
- C. The Bible contains over 250 passages in the Old Testament and about 55 passages in the New Testament that require us to be obedient to everything that is commanded in Scripture.
 1. The psalmist said his delight was in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditated day and night.
 2. So, we have this desire to do the will of God planted in us as believers.
 3. Because you delight in it you learn it...and when you learn it you apply it.
 4. That's where all effective Bible study begins.
- D. Spiritual blessing isn't something you get zapped with while you're just wandering through a revival tent.
 1. It's not something that's going to happen to you because a sermon was a real zinger and captivated you.
 2. Spiritual maturity and growth is the long-haul process of the application of divine truth in your life.
 3. True spiritual growth is just like human growth, it is a process fed by nourishment and that nourishment is the Word of God.

IV. Requirements

- A. First requirement, one must be a Christian.
- B. There's a second necessary component...desire. (1 Peter 2:1)
 1. The heart of this passage is one statement. "Like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the Word."
 2. When you bring a baby into your home, all they care about is milk.
 3. Several things should feed that desire.
 - a. First of all, remember the Word was the source of your spiritual life.
 - b. Second, eliminate your sin.
 - c. Third, admit your need for the Word.
 - d. Fourth, pursue growth.
 - e. Fifth. survey your blessings. (If you've already been blessed in obedience in the past, seek to obey in the future.)
- C. Fight for it.
 1. Sometimes people will say, "Well you need to be more of a peacemaker, you need to be more conciliatory, you need to be more loving."
 2. When it comes to the Word of God, if you love it and honor it, you can't help but fight for it.
- D. And then people who desire the Word proclaim it.
 1. Whatever it is you love most you talk about.
 2. People who long for the Word like a baby longs for milk can't help but proclaim it.
- E. Lastly, personalize it.
 1. It takes up the fabric of your life, begins to shape you.
 2. It shows up in how you live.