

INTRODUCTION: As we get nearer to the completion of our Summer of Discipleship, we get closer to the time when school starts, or in my case, has already started. This is a good time of year to think about what it means to be a student. Particularly, in our case, we're going to take a look at being a student of the Word. Today, we will see that as disciples, being students of the Word requires that we **STUDY DILIGENTLY, STUDY WITH ENDURANCE, STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH, and that we STUDY FOR A TRANSFORMED LIFE.**

STUDY DILIGENTLY

- (2:15-16) **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. But avoid irreverent, empty speech, for this will produce an even greater measure of godlessness.**
- **Be diligent to present** (KJV study to show): The KJV is the only translation I could find that uses the word study. The other versions all recognize the word correctly as being diligent. But let's think about this, how else would we be diligent but to study!
- A worker who doesn't need to be ashamed:
 - Constitution Day with Maj. S. and Justice Scalia
 - Many people assert things that they **think** the Bible says or doesn't say.
 - God won't give you more than you can handle.
 - God helps those who help themselves.
 - Jesus never said anything about homosexuality.
 - Acts 17:11 tells us of the Bereans, **"The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with**

eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

- Correctly teaching the word of truth:
 - Paul wrote to Timothy, a pastor
 - The same principle applies here. If you are a believer, you need to be teaching someone the truth!
- **Avoid irreverent, empty speech...**
 - The world is already overrun with godlessness. We do not need to add to it.
- Never assume that there’s a part of the Bible that you don’t need. As J. Vernon McGee famously said, “It takes a whole Bible to make a whole Christian.”
- We need to study the whole scripture diligently, but we also need to study it with endurance!

STUDY WITH ENDURANCE

- **(3:10-11) But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from them all.**
- Timothy had been on mission with Paul, and Paul was the one who left him in charge in Ephesus. He had plenty of opportunity to observe Paul’s character and conduct.
- He had also observed how often Paul had been persecuted, and yet continued faithfully.
- He had to rely on the Lord to get him through these situations.
 - If his faith hadn’t been so strong, surely he would have renounced his faith.
- **(3:12) In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**
 - If anyone ever tries to sell you a prosperity gospel, refer them to this passage.

- Jesus did not die on a cross to make your earthly life easier. The world hated Him, it hates you too.
- It takes endurance to live your life in light of this fact.
- This is part of why studying the scripture is so important. Without knowledge of the promises of God, you will not have the strength to make it through the hard times. But of course studying the scripture is also important in order to understand the truth.

STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

- **(3:13) Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.**
 - As true as this was in Paul and Timothy's day, with false teachers teaching false doctrines, it is equally true today.
 - Prosperity Gospels
 - People, even in churches celebrating all sorts of sin.
 - (Rom. 1:31) **Although they know full well God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them.**
 - Note the reference to deceiving and being deceived. People are deluding themselves into this lie that almost everyone goes to heaven!
- **(3:14-15) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**
 - Continue: Timothy had the benefit of right teaching. It's much easier to continue in right teaching than to overcome wrong teaching.

- Learned and firmly believed: You can, and must teach your children right, but it comes up to them to have their own faith!
- Who taught you from childhood: Grandmother Lois and mother Eunice.
- The sacred scriptures: The OT was what they had, and they recognized them as Holy.
- Which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - All of scripture points to Jesus, and God’s redemptive plan for creation.
- If you claim to be a believer, but yet don’t take time in the scripture to know more about your salvation, there is a problem. Salvation is not about “fire insurance” but is instead about a transformed life. We must study for that transformed life.

STUDY FOR A TRANSFORMED LIFE

- **(3:16-17) All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**
 - All scripture is inspired by God.
 - God-breathed!
 - Is profitable so that you may be complete, equipped for every good work. It does this in four ways.
 - Teaching: As it extends to lifestyle applications.
 - Rebuking: Proof or conviction. Scripture provides the proof of our sinfulness and convicts us of our sins.
 - Correcting: Restoring to its proper condition.
 - Training in righteousness: Refers to how one would train a child.

- Scripture is given to us for all these reasons, and it is essential to bring about God's purpose in our lives. To ignore it is to ignore God and His supreme will in our lives.

SO, WHAT?

- Do you make a regular practice of studying God's word? If not, what excuse do you plan to give Him?
- Diligence in the study of God's word takes time and commitment. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." The purpose is not to skim the scriptures, but to internalize them.
- If you do not know the word, you cannot teach it to your children and grandchildren. You also cannot defend your beliefs if you don't know them.
- How long have you been studying the Word? If it's been a long time, great. If not, there's only one way to develop endurance in the word. Start today and be faithful every day.
- Have you studied scripture enough that you can recognize when someone is misrepresenting it? Can you tell if that TV preacher is false? Or your next-door neighbor?
- Most importantly, is your life being transformed by your study of the Word. Does it teach and correct you? Does the Bible convict you of your sins? Is it continually sanctifying you?
- Are you a follower of Jesus?