

WHY READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

Introduction

- 1) At the beginning of a new year, Bible reading schedules are often used to guide the excellent habit of reading the Scriptures daily
- 2) God has always expected His people to know His will, and to know the will of God reading and studying the Bible is necessary
- 3) Ezra read the Law of Moses in the hearing of the people in Jerusalem (Neh. 8:1-12)
 - a) People were attentive of mind (v. 3)
 - b) People were reverent in attitude (v. 5)
 - c) People gained understanding when they heard the word of God (vv. 8-12)
- 4) Why should we read and study the Bible today?

I) God Wants Us to Study

A) **2 Timothy 2:15** – “Study” (KJV)

- 1) “Be diligent” (NKJV, ASV) – cannot do this without reading and studying God’s word

B) This is necessary to present ourselves “approved to God”

- 1) God’s approval involves our use and understanding of His word (cf. Phil. 1:9-11)
- 2) We cannot assume God approves of us – need to know His will and do it
- 3) If you are not interested in being approved of God, don’t study!

II) Know the Truth

A) **John 8:31-32** – if we abide in God’s word, we will know the truth

- 1) We cannot enjoy the benefits of the truth (set free from sin) if we do not know it, and how can we know it if we do not read and study it?

- 2) Many do not know the truth, not because they can’t, but because they do not study it

B) Danger in not having a knowledge of the truth (Hosea 4:6)!

III) Gain Saving Faith

A) **Romans 10:17** – faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God

- 1) “Hearing” involves studying and understanding

B) Faith gained from God’s word will guide us to salvation in Christ (Rom. 1:16-17)

IV) Be an Unashamed Worker

A) **2 Timothy 2:15** – a worker who does not need to be ashamed (cf. 1:12)

- 1) No shame before anyone when we know and stand for the truth

- 2) Lack of knowledge will bring the shame of inaction, false doctrine, and sin

V) Rightly Divide the Word of Truth

A) **2 Timothy 2:15** – rightly divide = handle accurately (cf. Rom. 12:2)

- 1) Some will wrongly handle God’s word; must study to avoid distortion, or going beyond

VI) Able to Answer/Give a Defense

A) **1 Peter 3:15** – always be ready to give a defense (answer) for the hope in you

- 1) Days of inspiration are past, so we must study to know how to answer with truth

- 2) Personal opinions, viewpoints, and ideas are not equal to inspired truth (1 Pet. 4:11)

Conclusion

Do you see your need to read **and** study the Bible? Time is short, and there is much to learn. Ignorance should be unacceptable. Study and obey the truth that will save your soul for eternity.