

Study God's Word

II Timothy 2:8-15

1

Study is Commanded

Study – “application of the mental faculties to the acquisition of knowledge ...” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

- II Timothy 2:15, “Study ...” (KJV)

Meditate – “to focus one’s thoughts on: reflect on or ponder over” (Ibid)

- Philippians 4:8 – “meditate on these things” (NKJV)
- cf. Psalms 1:1-2 – “on his law he meditates day and night”

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2

Study is Commanded

Search – “to look into or over carefully or thoroughly in an effort to find or discover something” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

- Acts 17:11 – “searched the Scriptures daily”

Understand – “to grasp the meaning of” (Ibid)

- Ephesians 5:17 – “understand what the will of the Lord is”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Reverence – Always remember you’re studying Divine revelation – the word of God demands great respect.

- I Thessalonians 2:13 – “you received the word of God”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Honesty – many approach study with the wrong motives

- **No confidence**

- cf. Hebrews 10:19-23 – “a true heart in full assurance of faith”
- cf. Hebrews 4:14-16 – “with confidence draw near”

- **Prejudice**

- cf. Romans 15:5-7 – “with one voice glorify”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Honesty – many approach study with the wrong motives

- **To find fault**

- cf. I Thessalonians 2:13 – “the word of God”

- **As trivia**

- cf. Hebrews 4:12 – “discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Desire – because you want to learn. If there is no desire, you will be hindered in proper study

- Psalms 119:97 – “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day”
- See Psalms 1 – “... his delight”
- cf. II Thessalonians 2:9-10 – “they refused to love the truth and so be saved”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Diligence – a willingness to work hard at it. If it's worth having, it's worth the effort to obtain it

- II Timothy 2:15 – “a worker ... rightly handling the word of truth”
- Proverbs 2:1-9 – “seek it like silver and search for it”
- cf. Matthew 7:7-8 – “seek, and you will find”
- **Laziness** – kills and is condemned by God
 - Proverbs 13:4 – “the sluggard craves and gets nothing”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Direction – prepare a plan for systematic study

- II Timothy 3:14-17 – “equipped for every good work”
- Matthew 4:4 – “by every word that comes from the mouth of God”

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Attitudes Needed for Study

Dedication – requires much time, effort, cost, and sacrifice. Set aside a time to study on a regular basis

- Our Bibles should be worn out from continual use
 - cf. Acts 17:11 – “examining the Scriptures daily”

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Suggestions for Bible Study

- Give the Word a fair hearing
- Remove prejudice
- Complete your Bible study before reaching a firm conclusion
- Do regular word studies
- Remove emotions
- Keep the text in context

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Suggestions for Bible Study

- Accept the words of the text
- Begin with what the text actually says
- Respect the authority of Scripture over the words of men
 - I Corinthians 4:6 – “not to go beyond what is written”
 - I Corinthians 2:1-5 – “in the power of God”

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Suggestions for Bible Study

- Let the Bible interpret itself
- Context, common sense, use what is clearly taught to help explain that which is challenging
 - Hebrews 5:14 – “trained by constant practice”
- The Bible does not contradict itself – God does not confuse
 - I Corinthians 14:33, 40 – “not a God of confusion ... decently and in order”

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Suggestions for Bible Study

- Use Bible study aids wisely
 - Dictionary
 - Concordance
 - Bible dictionary
 - Hebrew and Greek lexicon
 - Bible maps
 - Various versions

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If you want to go to Heaven

How much time will you devote with the source that tells you how to get there?

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“Buy truth, and do not sell it, buy wisdom and instruction and understanding”

Proverbs 23:23

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Taking The Right Path

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 - “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message

- Hebrews 11:6 - “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

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Taking The Right Path

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 - “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 - “... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

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Taking The Right Path

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 - “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 - “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”