

Choosing to be a Person of the Book

Lesson #3

Scripture: Psalms 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

Introduction:

Martin Luther was one of the most prominent members of the reformation movement. I must tell you that I admire him greatly because he looked at the church at large and said man this thing needs fixed. It is so far away from God’s intention. So Martin Luther sought to reform or fix the things within the church that were broken.

In so doing Luther’s cry became lets get back to the bible. Luther understood that only God’s word could led us through this world. He proclaimed this need to getting back to God’s word time and time again. He was a living understanding of Jeremiah 10:23 which says “*I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.*”

But interestingly enough latter in life Luther in an attempt to fix heresies within the church nailed his 95 thesis to the Catholic doors. Then Luther found himself spending all of his time debating his theological positions instead of being deeply absorbed in God’s word.

Transitional Statement:

Church, it is so easy to be like the proverbial frog, not realizing he is being slowly boiled to death in hot water. When we fail to spend time in God’s word we begin a decent from Mount Zion...the very presence of God. We leave the spiritual realm and find ourselves wrapped up in the matters of flesh. Our path grows dim and we wonder out into darkness, seeking our own path.

Nothing short of a full dependence on God’s word will support our spiritual journey upon this earth.

Lesson:

I. Bible study must start with the life of Christ

- A. Anywhere you turn to in the good book is pointing to Christ.
- B. So the real beginning of any bible study starts with a thorough knowledge of the life of Christ.
 - 1. The Gospels should be home turf for us
 - 2. We should know them well enough to give a chapter location for any story.
 - 3. Memorizing each chapter heading for all four gospels

II. Bible study should be understood as a whole

- A. Books Like “Foundations of Faith” by Alton Howard help us understand the whole context of scripture and thus gives us a frame-work for understanding.
- B. Knowing the message of each book and its context.
- C. Knowing historical contexts
- D. Topical knowledge
- E. Biographical information....like the names of the kings of Israel, Prophets etc.
- F. Geographical information

III. Bible study requires lots of continual effort.

- A. The purpose of the author
- B. The recipient
- C. Their circumstances.
- D. Understanding of bible study tools
- E. A way to remember and build on your study
- F. Sharing your information by teaching or writing articles
- G. Original language
- H. Meditation
- I. NEVER CONTENT WITH ANY LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE.

IV. Bible study enables us to:

- A. Hold to the pattern of sound words. 2 Timothy 1:13
- B. Helps us know what to commit to other faithful men 2 Timothy 2:2
- C. Lifts us above foolish and speculative issues 2 Timothy 2:14-16
- D. Helps us be ready for every good work 2 Timothy 3:14-17

V. Bible study must come from a deep desire.

- A. We must understand that the bible is the very words of God 2 Timothy 3:16
- B. And the bible contains the words of life. Phil 2:16
- C. And if we were whisked away to prison right now, the only thing we should ask is for our bibleslike Paul did. 2 Timothy 4:13

- D. Polishing our swords should be first on our list every day.
- E. Weakness to temptation can usually be traced back to a lack of passion for God's word.

VI. Bible study must include evangelism

- A. To simply try to make heaven on your own, leaving all others behind, misses the very core of spirituality.
- B. Matthew 28:18-20 gives us our mission
- C. We must embrace the habits of Phillip sitting down with the Eunuch ..Acts 8
- D. Or the Good Samaritan of Luke 10:30-37

Conclusion:

Have you seen Indiana Jones and his search for the Ark of the Covenant? Many people have searched for it wanting its great power. Or the cup that Christ used in the last supper.

It is amazing that people spend so much time searching for power and they would risk life and limb to find it. All the while the greatest source of power usually lies within close reach in God's word, for it is the power of God unto salvation Romans 1:16