

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 9:10 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on How to Study the Bible!

Why do we study the Bible? And how do we go about it? Those were the key questions we addressed in last nite's MOB study--as a prelude to getting into our study of the book of Romans!

Our memory verse, taken from 2 Timothy 2:15, sets the tone for our discussion by encouraging us to "be diligent to present yourself approved of God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth!" (NASB) The King James version (KJV) gets right to the point by commanding us to "study to show yourself approved by God..."!

Basically, we study the Bible because it is God's revelation to mankind, explaining and making sense of our existence and purpose for living--and addressing every conceivable aspect of our lives on planet Earth, and for eternity to come! Including, first and foremost, how we can receive "saving faith" and have the "gift of eternal life" as a result of "hearing the word of the Lord" (Romans 10:17) And it's the Word of God itself which explains it all so much better than what anyone might have to say!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says: "All Scripture is given by inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"! The Phillips translation the Scriptures are "the comprehensive equipment of the man of God, and fit him fully for all branches of his work!"

The apostle Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 2:13 that "...we constantly thank God that when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God!"

He goes on to say in I Corinthians 2:12-13 that "...we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God! Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words!"

Peter, the apostle, said in 2 Peter 1:20-21 that "...no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God!"

Romans 3:2 refers to the Scriptures as the "oracles of God"!

Hebrews 4:12 says: "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart!"

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 19:7-11 that "the law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous all

together! They are more desirable than gold; sweeter also than honey and the dripping of the honeycomb! Moreover, by them your servant is warned; and in keeping them there is great reward!"

Isaiah, the prophet, wrote in Isaiah 55:11 that the Word which "goes forth from My mouth (speaking of the mouth of God) will not return empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it!

And Jesus Himself, in His "intercessory prayer" for His disciples in John 17:17--just prior to the cross--asked that the Father "sanctify them in the truth! Your word is truth," He said! He also said in Matthew 2:35 that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall never pass away!"

And how about Psalm 119--with every one of the 176 verses referring to the work and power of God's Word! Included among these is the Psalmist's plea to "open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from Your law"! (Takes a little bit of study for that to happen!)

Well, after all that and more, anyone not want to get into a study of God's Word? Realizing all the benefits, and the importance, of doing it??

But just how are we supposed to go about it?

Last nite, Dave offered a lot of great insights in our large group session, and we discussed these and other things in our small group session as well. There are many resources available, including good study Bibles, commentaries, books and bogs, and methods and techniques! Some of these can be accessed on our IBC MOB web site!

But the most important thing is to take time to read the Bible itself, beginning with a prayer asking God to speak to you personally through His Word and through the work of the Holy Spirit!

This week we want you to read carefully and "diligently" through the book of Romans--applying study methods and techniques available to you at this point, as best you can! Making notes, highlighting key passages, doing some cross-referencing, comparing Scripture with Scripture, and remembering the three-fold study process of (1) observation, (2) interpretation, and (3) application! Also reading chapter one of Douglas Moo's "Encountering the Book of Romans!"

And don't forget our new memory verses, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, noted above!

This is asking a lot, I know! Do what you can, if all this is totally new to you! It will be worth it if you continue at it, over time, "building up yourself in the Word," and making it part of your life! Remember--as someone has said--"the Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't!"

Have a great week, men!
Lowell