

## Why Is Bible Study Important?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- Bible study is one of the most important activities of Christians
  - illus.: Berean's more noble-minded than the Thessalonians, received the great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, therefore many of them believed (Acts 17)
- two lesson series:
  - Why Is Bible Study Important? (this lesson) – 5 reasons, but there's more
  - How Do We Study The Bible?

### ➤ Bible study is important because God calls us through the gospel!

- 2 Th. 2:14 God calls mankind through the gospel, to salvation
  - we must study the Bible to understand God's call, so we can obey and go to heaven
- illus.: Irene's mother called her family in from the field for lunch, by hanging up a white flour sack
  - if you understood the call, you knew when to come home and eat lunch
  - if you didn't understand the call, you went hungry
  - you had to understand her call to eat, just like we have to understand God's call to go to heaven

### ➤ - the only way we can understand God's call and respond, is to study the Bible

➤ **Bible study is important because it's how we obtain spiritual knowledge and wisdom!**

- **illus.:** one of the top priorities of man is to obtain knowledge and become wise (adapted from: M. Littleton, Moody

Monthly, June 1989, p. 29)

- **Once a proud young man came to Socrates** asking for knowledge.
  - He walked up to the muscular philosopher and said, "**O great Socrates, I come to you for knowledge.**"
- **Socrates led the young man** through the streets, to the sea, and **chest deep into water.**
  - **Then he asked, "What do you want?"**
- **"Knowledge, O wise Socrates,"** said the young man with a smile.
- **Socrates put his strong hands on the man's shoulders and pushed him under.**
  - Thirty seconds later, Socrates let him up. "**What do you want?**" he asked again.
- **"Wisdom,"** the young man sputtered.
- **Socrates crunched him under again.**
  - **Thirty seconds passed,** thirty-five, forty.
  - **Socrates let him up.** The man was gasping.
  - **"What do you want, young man?"**
- **Between heavy, heaving breaths the young man wheezed, "Knowledge, O wise and wonderful..."**
- **Socrates jammed him under again:** forty seconds passed, fifty.
  - **"What do you want?"**
- **"Air!"** the young man screeched. **"I need air!"**
- **"When you want knowledge as you have just wanted air, then you will have knowledge."**
- **true knowledge and wisdom is only found in Christ, not in the things of man (Col. 2:3)**
  - we must **desire** spiritual knowledge and wisdom **as badly as air**
  - **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, **filled (Matt. 5:6)**

➤ - **Matt. 7:24** hear and act on Jesus' words = wise – **Bible study (Rom. 10:17)**

- **1 Cor. 1:24** Christ is the power and wisdom of God

- **Col. 2:3** all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ

➤ - **Eph. 5:15-17** wisdom is understanding the will of the Lord, and doing it (vs. 18-21) – **Bible study**

➤ - **Ja. 3:13-15** heavenly v. demonic wisdom

➤ - **men seek after knowledge and wisdom**

- **few find it, because they're unwilling to submit to Christ,** therefore they're deceived by demonic wisdom which is really foolishness

- **for those who obey Christ and obtain true (spiritual) knowledge and wisdom, they are blessed by God**

- **points following below, remainder of lesson**

➤ **Bible study is important because it's how we become strong, and do God's work!** – wisdom, strength, do God's will

- **Rom. 1:16** gospel, power of God unto salvation – **study, Bible, know, empowered**

- **1 Cor. 1:18** word of the cross is power of God to those who are being saved

- to have the power of God work in our lives, resulting in **salvation**, we must **know** the gospel – **study**

➤ - **1 Th. 2:13b** God word performs it's work in those who **believe** – **Bible study**

- **Jn. 6:28-29** Jesus, to work the works of God, **believe (Rom. 10:17)**

- we must **study the Bible**, to **know** God's word, to **believe (Rom. 10:17)** – **result: God works in our lives**

➤ - **Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13** God works in us, to accomplish His will, when we obey

- we study His word, **know, believe, God works in us (Rom. 1:16; Rom. 10:17; 1 Th. 2:13)**

- **illus.: God's work in our lives**

- **Rom. 8:28** God **causes** all things work together for good, to those who love the Lord

- **Rom. 8:32** God **freely gives** us all things

- **Rom. 8:33** God **justifies** us

- **Rom. 8:34** Christ is at the right hand of God **interceding** for us

- **Rom. 8:37** we **overwhelmingly conquer** through Christ

- **Rom. 8:38-39** **nothing can separate** us from the love of God

➤ - **Col. 1:9-11** knowledge (*epignosis*), **strengthened with all power, according to God's glorious might** – **Bible study**

- **2 Tim. 3:16-17** **Scripture**, profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness; that the **man of God** may be adequate, **equipped for every good work**

➤ - we study the Bible, **knowledge, believe and obey God, and God works in our lives as His children**

- to do his will

- **spiritual strength**

- **Bible study is important because God only attends to our prayers if we're righteous!**
  - **1 Pet. 3:7, 11-12** must be righteous for God to attend to our prayers – **Bible study**
- - **Matt. 7:7-11** confidence of the righteous: God gives us good gifts when we ask
  - without Bible study, we can't be righteous, because not know God's word (calling), so God doesn't bless us by attending to our prayers
    - **illus.:** a billionaire decided to give away a free car to everyone who wrote a letter and asked, as long as they follow the guidelines of the giveaway
      - he had rules printed and posted in all the stores, and broadcast through the media
        - in the rules, it said you had to do something charitable for another person, and enclose a picture of the good deed
      - millions of people sent in letters, asking for a new car, but many of them didn't follow the rules, and didn't receive a car
      - several people rioted, and went to the billionaire, inquiring as to why they didn't get a car
        - the answer was, without exception, **"You didn't follow the rules!"**
        - one man claimed he couldn't read, and thought he should have been excused
          - "No," the billionaire said, "you should have learned to read, or found a trustworthy friend to read it to you."
        - another man claimed he didn't have time, and thought he should have been excused
          - No," the billionaire explained, "you had time for everything else. You didn't make time, that was the problem, you should have read the rules and followed them instead of sitting around watching TV. You're not excused."
        - another man claimed he never saw the rules, and claimed someone lied about the rules to make him lose, he thought he should be excused
          - "No," the billionaire said, "you must take personal responsibility. You were obviously too unconcerned or too lazy. You're not excused."
      - the billionaire felt sorry for everyone who hadn't complied with the rules, and didn't get a car, but he never relented
- - without Bible study, we don't know the *rules* of life, aren't righteous, not blessed by God attending to our prayers (**1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2**)
- **Bible study is important because we won't go to heaven without knowing God's word and obeying!** – must study the Bible to be blessed in this life, and eternity
  - **2 Th. 1:8** must obey the gospel of Jesus to be saved – **Bible study**
    - **Heb. 5:9** must obey Jesus to be saved - gospel of Jesus Christ (**2 Th. 1:8**)
- - **2 Th. 2:10** love truth to be saved (**Jn. 17:17**) – **Bible study** - committed to be whatever necessary to live by it
  - **1 Pet. 1:22** must obey the truth
- - we must study the Bible, to know the gospel and love the truth, to obey, be saved, eternal life in heaven
  - if we don't we can't be saved
  - if we do, we can be saved
  - **Hos. 4:6** My people destroyed for lack of knowledge – for not studying the Bible

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **Why is Bible study important?**

- because **God calls us through the gospel**
- because **it's how we obtain spiritual knowledge and wisdom**
- because **it's how we become strong, and do God's work**
- because **God only attend to our prayers if we're righteous**
- because **we won't go to heaven without knowing God's word and obeying**

- **next lesson:** How Do We Study The Bible?

- **inv.:** respond to God's call to be saved, know what He says in the Bible, obey