

Bible Study Helps That Cost No Money

2 Tim. 2:15 (KJV).

Introduction:

- A. We need to understand the meaning of Bible study.
 - 1. More than just reading Bible — give diligent thought to it.
 - 2. More than just attending classes — study the material.
 - 3. More than just listening sermons — follow up with study.
- B. We need to understand the need for Bible study (cf. Hos. 4:6).
- C. We are often suggest Bible study helps for people.
 - 1. Some cost money: Reference Bible, Dictionary, Concordance, Commentary, etc.
 - 2. In this lesson we suggest some that will not cost a red cent.

Discussion:

- I. An Honest and Good Heart.**
 - A. Like the good soil (Lk 8:15).
 - B. Like Cornelius (Acts 10:33).
- II. A Desire to Do God's Will.**
 - A. Jesus tied knowledge to a willingness to do God's will (John 7:17).
 - B. We learn by doing (John 8:31, 32; Heb. 5:12-14).
- III. Regular Study Habits.**
 - A. Both Testaments urge regular study (Psa. 1:2; Acts 17:11).
 - B. What if we approached other fields of study they way we do Bible study?
 - 1. Just attend class and/or opened the book once in a while.
 - 2. Just open at random without plan or purpose.
- IV. A Spirit of Investigation.**
 - A. The Bereaians listened and investigated (Acts 17:11) — did not already know it all (cf. John 9:34)
 - B. The Thessalonians were not to despise prophesying, but investigate (1 Thess. 5:20-22).
 - C. Prejudice thrives on mentally lazy religionists.
 - 1. Lazy man says, "I do (or do not) agree" without investigation.
 - 2. One thing to call it "truth" or "error" — another to know why! (Cf. Tit. 1:9).
 - 3. Congregations need to encourage open investigation without strife or bitterness.
 - a. Would purify the church.
 - b. Would keep members from accepting or rejecting on the surface.
- V. A Desire to Rightly Divide the Word (text)**
 - A. Literally to cut it straight — handle aright (ASV).
 - B. It means more than just dividing the Old from New Testaments.
 - 1. Involves using common sense rules for study — like any other literature.
 - 2. Involves careful and correct interpretation and application of Bible text.

Conclusion:

- A. Want to the Bible better? Apply these helps.
- B. Want to obey the Bible? Begin by obeying the first principles.