

Drawing Near to God through the Word (2 Tim. 3:14-17)

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TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING IN GOD'S WORD—No spiritual exercise is more important than the intake of God's Word. You cannot be a healthy Christian apart from a consistent diet of the milk and meat of Scripture. The Bible is not merely a human book but God's special revelation to us, so we must submit to Scripture in a way that we submit to no other book. The Bible must be given the role of forming, directing, and correcting our beliefs, attitudes, emotions and actions (i.e. final authority).

Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:23

John 17:17

*Through the Bible we learn about: the nature of God, the nature of man; the work of Jesus Christ to satisfy God's law and rescue sinners by grace; the way of salvation through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus; the will of God and the ways of God; the rewards of heaven; the judgment of hell; eternity and how to prepare for it in this life. **Ps. 19:7-11**

MAIN IDEA—God's written word in the scriptures is the primary way we draw near to God and grow in godliness.

Jn. 6:63

5 WAYS TO TAKE IN GOD'S WORD

1. Hearing God's Word [Rom. 10:17]—This is the easiest way to take in God's Word simply by listening to the word taught or proclaimed. Still we must discipline ourselves to faithfully hear God's word regularly or else we may not hear it at all.

1 Cor. 1:21-24

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2. Reading God's Word (1 Tim. 4:13)—Daily reading the Bible is how we get acquainted with the big ideas of the Scriptures. Though reading God's word seems simple in theory, the reality is many people never read their Bibles except at church or in special situations. Some don't read it at all and miss out on one of the simplest ways to commune with God. **Gen. 3:15**

*The OT Law, History, Poetry, and Prophecy books all point to the coming of Christ. The NT Gospels (Matthew-John), and Acts speak about Christ's life, death, resurrection, ascension to heaven, and the birth of the church. The Epistles (Romans-Jude) speak about how to live as followers of Christ until He returns. The Revelation speaks about Christ's imminent return and eternity with Him as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

a. Make a time.

b. Find a Bible reading plan. www.thebiblerecap.com; www.Bibleplan.org

c. Find at least one word, phrase, or verse to meditate (think deeply about) each time you read.

3. Studying God's

Word (2 Tim. 2:15)--Through Bible study we dig into the depths of God's revealed truth.

Reading is like driving a motor boat across the lake getting a passing view. Bible Study is like slowly passing through the same lake in a glass-bottomed boat in order to discover treasures.

Acts 17:11

O-I-A (observation, interpretation, application).

*Who wrote the book? Who is the audience? When was it written? Where was it written? Why was it written? *What is the main idea of the book, chapter, or verses? *What does the text say? *How does this fit into the larger story of the chapter, the book or story of the Bible (context)? *What other Scriptures in the Bible illustrate this truth or is this only mentioned here in the Bible (interpret scripture with scripture)? *What does this teach me about God or myself? *What should I do or believe because of this text?

Study Bible (Reformation, MacArthur, ESV Study Bibles). Websites like: StudyLight. Org; BibleGateway.com; or Biblestudytools.com give you access to online Bibles, Dictionaries, & commentaries.

4. Memorizing God's Word (Ps. 119:9-11). When Scripture is stored in the mind and heart its available for the Holy Spirit to bring to your attention when you need it. This method of Bible intake is extremely powerful and life changing when consistently pursued with an attitude of dependence upon the Lord!

5. Meditating on God's Word [Ps. 1:1-3]. Meditation can be defined as “deep thinking” on the truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture for the purposes of understanding, application, and prayer. Meditation is absorption and without it your heart will not be deeply impacted. There is great blessing and benefit from meditating on God's word. According to **Psalm 1** stability, fruitfulness, perseverance, and prosperity are its results.

MEMORY VERSE—Col. 3:16

Puritan Pastor Thomas Watson (1620-1686)—*The reason we come away so cold from reading the word is, because we do not warm ourselves at the fire of meditation.*

CONCLUSION

***What area of Bible intake is God prompting you to focus on...Hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, or meditating on God's word?**

Let us draw near to Jesus by sitting at His feet and taking in His word. Jesus said this is *‘that good part, which shall not be taken away!’

References: Knowing Scripture, R.C. Sproul; For the Love of God, D.A. Carson; The Bible Recap, Tara Leigh Cobble