

GOD

The Importance of Biblical Research and Teaching

As we endeavor to live according to God's Word in this Grace Administration, we want to keep something very important in mind: **God wants us to know Him and to share His Word.** He doesn't **just** want people to hear enough to be saved, bringing them into His family. Let's look at a familiar verse:

I Timothy

2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

According to Jesus Christ, **God's Word is truth (John 17:17)**. God wants us to gain a **full, experiential knowledge of His Word**. Why? Look at **II Peter chapter 1**, where we'll begin in verse 2:

II Peter

1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

1:3 According as his divine power (*he – God*) gave unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by them ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God, our heavenly Father, has **given** to us **all things that pertain unto life and godliness**. That's all things pertaining to **life** in all of its fullness; and **godliness**, a true and vital spiritual relationship with Him. Verse 3 says that we gain these things "through the **knowledge of him** that hath called us". We get this full, experiential knowledge of God by reading and studying **His Word**. And, God's Word contains many "**exceeding great and precious promises**" that we can know and claim in our lives.

From the next few verses, we see things we are to **apply** in our lives with all **diligence**: faith (**believing**), **virtue** (strength of mind), **knowledge** (experiential knowledge), **temperance** (self-control), **patience** (endurance), **godliness** (that true and vital spiritual relationship with Him); and "brotherly kindness" (**brotherly love**) and "charity" (**the love of God** manifested as we renew our minds). We then come to **verse 8**:

1:8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they *make you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall (*stumble*):

1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

We want to have **fruitful lives** that are **established in the present truth** (the truths of the Grace Administration). When we **know the truth**, we are **free** (**John 8:32**). God wants us to **know**.

Ephesians

- 1:18** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
1:19a And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe...

Look at **Philippians chapter 1**, beginning in **verse 9**:

Philippians

- 1:9** And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;
1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Our **love** will **abound** as we gain that **full, experiential knowledge** of God and His Word, and we can expect to be **filled** with the **fruits of righteousness**.

Colossians

- 1:9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing (*growing up*) in the knowledge of God;

How do we “increase in the knowledge of God”? We need to **go to God’s Word**. We can read it or listen to someone else teach it. But, no matter how we get to God’s Word, God wants us to **study** it. We see this in **II Timothy 2:15**:

II Timothy

- 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Greek word translated “**study**” is *spoudazō*, which has the connotation of using **diligence**, keeping in mind the **brevity** of the time (it’s the **same** word translated “**endeavoring**” in **Ephesians 4:3** where we read “**Endeavoring** to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace”).

A great **example** of people studying, diligently searching, God’s Word can be seen in **Acts chapter 17, verse 11**:

Acts

17:11 These (*the Judeans in Berea*) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

After **listening** to what Paul and Silas had to say, the Berean Judeans **didn't** just take their word for it, but they **went to the scriptures** so they could **see for themselves** whether what they were taught was true. Keep in mind that at that time the **only** scriptures available to them were from the Old Testament (up to Malachi), as the Gospels had not yet been written. They were searching the **prophecies** of the coming Messiah and what he would accomplish. The **result**? **Verse 12** begins: "Therefore **many** of them **believed**..." Even after seeing what was written in the scrolls, **not everybody** believed and got saved, but **some did**.

This brings to mind an important point: **Anybody**, even natural man, can study, research, and even quote God's Word, **but** if they do **not** become born again of God's spirit it **won't** profit them. We see this spelled out in **I Corinthians chapter 2**, beginning in **verse 9**:

I Corinthians

- 2:9** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
- 2:10** But God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit: for the Spirit (*spirit, our gift*) searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
- 2:11** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit (*life spirit*) of man which is in him? Even so the (*deep*) things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
- 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
- 2:13** Which things also we speak, not the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit (*the spirit*) teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
- 2:14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

As **born-again believers** living in today's Grace Administration, when **we** go to God's Word and diligently **study** it, we can expect all the **benefits** that God has made available to us, and the **more abundant life** is ours.

The people we read about in our Bible, however, had access to **scrolls** with God's Word still reasonably **accurately** portrayed. **Today**, however, there are **no original manuscripts** available. The adversary, in his effort to keep people from believing God's Word and getting saved and knowing Him, has **nearly succeeded** in keeping us from **knowing** what God **really said**. Our Bibles are based on **translations** and **interpretations** of whatever manuscripts have been found, and all of **these** were compiled **long after** the God-breathed Word was **originally** written as "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the holy spirit" (**II Peter 1:21**).

So, today we are faced with a **challenge** if we want to **study God's Word** and **know** what He really said, reaping the **greatest benefits** as we **apply** it in our lives. **Rather** than just being content with reading and "searching" the King James Version (or any other single version), we **each** should **research** God's Word. There are numerous **research tools** available, such as concordances, interlinears, lexicons, and such: and with a bit of instruction and practice **anybody** can learn to do **their own Biblical research**.

Listening to teachings by **others** who have **themselves** researched the topic they teach is great, but to **really** make it our own, we'd **benefit** by doing what those Berean Judeans of Acts 17:11 did, not necessarily conducting a full research project for everything we hear or read, but **at least** going to God's Word on our own and **working** what we heard. And, even with all the wonderful Biblical research that has been done, there is **still** much **more** that needs to be **researched** and **rightly divided**.

In our research we should **apply** any and all the **keys** and research **principles** we have been taught and **believe God** for His guidance and inspiration as we **put away** any preconceived notions we may have. The more **thorough** our research as we adhere to these principles, the **less** the possibility of falling into the trap of "**private interpretation**": remember **II Peter 1:20**, which says "Knowing this **first**, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation**".

Once we have **received** God's Word, whether through our own study/research or hearing someone else teach God's rightly divided Word, we are to **hold it fast (Titus 1:9)**. **But** we also want to **share** God's rightly divided Word **with others** so they too can benefit. We **not only** want to share it with others **in the household**, but with those who **haven't** yet heard so **they** can have the opportunity to **believe** and **get born again** (our **ministry of reconciliation**).

Our sharing **may** be by preparing a formal **teaching**; but can **also** be simply teaching an **individual** some truths from God's Word. Even when we simply **speak** God's rightly divided Word that we have made our own, we are in essence **teaching**.

While there **are** members in the Body of Christ with a major **long suit** in teaching (**Romans 12:7**) or a **gift ministry** as a Teacher (**Ephesians 4:11**), **every** believer is capable of **teaching God's Word** that they have made their own.

Here are a few **verses** that can help inspire us to get out there and **teach** God's rightly divided Word:

Philippians

2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

2:16a Holding forth the word of life...

Colossians

1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory:

1:28 Whom we preach, warning (*admonishing*) every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (*fully mature in the mystery*) in Christ Jesus (*“Jesus” not in text: ...in Christ – in fellowship*).

II Corinthians

4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge (*experiential knowledge*) of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (*through the works that Jesus Christ did*).

II Corinthians

2:14 Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge (*experiential knowledge*) by us in every place.

As we **teach God’s Word**, we **make God known** to others. We **shine as lights** in this world. We **build up others** in the household.

We’ve seen that **God wants us to know Him**, and in order for us to do this we need to **research His Word** so that we can make His rightly divided Word our own. **Then**, we **teach** God’s rightly divided Word to others so **they too** can get to know Him and reap the benefits of the more abundant life that Jesus Christ came to make available.

- Dr. Rick Batt