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MINISTRIES

Many Christians see the Bible as a list of commandments—do's and don'ts. That's not going to make them have a great desire to pick it up. As a result, it sits on the shelf and gathers dust.

Second Timothy 2:15 says to “study to show thyself approved unto God.” So, the focus of our study is to show ourselves that we're approved by God. Don't look for its judgment. Look for God's acceptance and approval.

Look for scriptures that show you are the righteous, healed, and blessed. Show yourself what God already said about you. You don't study to find out what God's Word is telling someone else—look for what God is telling you. “You're approved.” “You're accepted.” “God loves you.” This is what I study.

We live in a condemned body of Christ. Stop letting the Word condemn you. It wasn't written to point out how bad you are. It's written to show us we're new creatures. If you study it for any other reason, it won't be correct and it won't help you.

John 8, verse 32 says, “The truth shall set you free.” And John 17:17 says, “Thy Word is truth.” The Word should bring freedom. If it's putting you in bondage, you're not reading it correctly.

How to study the Word of God:

1. Study to show yourself that you are approved. Look for scriptures and stories that show God is for us, with us and in us. Study to show yourself you are already forgiven, healed, and more than a conqueror.

2. Study to become a doer (a workman that does not need to be ashamed.)

Study to find out WHO YOU ARE—what God already said about you. Then, you know what to DO! You'll have the knowledge of what to do in any circumstance. When you find out who you really are, you'll talk to Him like your Father.

3. Study to understand the concept of God (His character). Find out who God is—what is He like—His attributes. Get a Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and look for these things:

A. He is Father (Matthew 6:9).

B. He is Love (I John 4:8).

C. He is Lord (Phil 2:10; Rom 10:9-12). That means He has authority. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." And in Luke 10: 19 He says, "Behold, I give unto you power...over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Jesus has authority and He's given you authority.

D. He is my source (my Shepherd). Study in the Bible where God demonstrated Himself as their source. He's not your judge. The blood of Jesus has been shed over our lives, so God is passing over the judgment we deserve—that's called mercy. God judged people in the Bible because they rejected Him or they rejected His Word—not because they fell short or sinned.

If you see a verse that shows God as a God of wrath, remember He poured out His wrath on Jesus on the cross. Jesus took our punishment and nailed it to the cross. If you sin, go to the blood. Psalm 103:12 says, "As far as east is from west, so far has He removed our sins."

I Corinthians 11 says people will preach a different Jesus. If someone preaches something other than those characteristics, don't listen. Don't follow the masses. Follow Jesus.

E. Understand what the Bible is.

(1) It's a bag of seed. So, when you read the Bible, you're looking for seeds.

(2) It's a will or a covenant. It's the "New Testament." It's God's "Will and Testament" with extensive explanation of the conditions of that "Will"—of what's rightfully yours if you belong to Christ.

Look for the "if you's" in the Bible when you study. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land. If you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's seed. The "if you's" show you how many things God wants for you.

Go to the Word of God concerning the area of your life you're dealing with or desiring to obtain.

Identify what you're dealing with. The problem you're dealing with is only temporary. That means it's subject to change. God's Word is eternal. That means it's not subject to change. Find the scriptures. Meditate and confess them. Apply the Word, which is not subject to change, to the thing that is subject to change - and it will change!