

Closer To God Series
Investigating God's Word
01/24/10

Text:

2 Timothy 2:15

Thesis:

If we are going to draw closer to God, we must investigate His word.

Discussion:

I) Why Investigate

- a) Contains the Power of Preservation
 - 1) Ignorance destroys People (Hosea 4:6)
 - 2) The Young can keep a clear path (Psalms 119:9)
 - 3) Elders are exhorted to keep the church by God's Word (Acts 20:28-32)
 - 4) First Step Toward a Dying Church is Neglect of God's Word.

II) Why is the Bible Neglected?

- a) I've studied it all.
 - 1) Get in the car with me and let me drive home with my eyes closed.
 - 2) What if computer programmers stopped learning?
- b) I'll take the Preacher's word
 - 1) Humans are apt to make mistakes (Acts 18:24-26).
 - 2) Individually we must be aware (1 John 4:1-2)
 - 3) We all must watch for false prophets (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
- c) I can't get anything out of the Bible
 - 1) Most spend little time reading or trying to understand.
 - 2) Paul considered that people could understand (Ephesians 3:3-4)
 - 3) Some will say they have no time....
 - (i) Ball Games
 - (ii) American Idol
 - (iii) CSI

III) Methods of Investigation

- a) Planned Lessons
 - 1) Chronological Bible Reading
 - 2) Study correspondence material
 - 3) Study personal evangelism material
- b) Subject Lessons
 - 1) Do research on a particular topic. Baptism, Worship, Salvation
 - 2) Careful not to pull scripture out of context.
 - (i) Who was writing
 - (ii) Who was it written to
 - (iii) What was the time period
 - (iv) Where did the writing take place
 - (v) What were the local customs of the writer and the recipients
 - 3) Book Lessons
 - (i) Research a book
 - (ii) Identify Themes and lessons

IV) Helps for Investigation

- a) Set a regular time, some are night owls and others are early birds.
- b) Investigate as a family.
 - 1) Each person given something to discover.

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- 2) The family discussing what's learned.
 - c) Pray during the Investigation time.
 - 1) Begin with a request (Psalms 119:18).
 - 2) Ask for wisdom and understanding (Psalms 119:5-6)
 - 3) Ask for the strength to maintain diligence (Hebrews 11:6)

 - 4) End with a prayer of retention (Psalms 119:10-11)
 - d) Use the Tools of Investigation
 - 1) Using multiple translations.
 - (i) Some study Bibles are printed with several translation side by side.
 - (ii) Interlinear Bibles that show the original language and the words translated.
 - 2) Dictionaries
 - (i) Knowing the meaning of words is a must.
 - (ii) Bible dictionaries are great because they can help us understand the archaic definitions of some words.
 - 3) Concordance
 - (i) Finding words listed each time they are used.
 - (ii) Time saver for subject studies.
 - 4) Encyclopedia
 - (i) References to places, customs and time periods mentioned in the bible.
 - (ii) Two Good References are
 - (a) Zondervan's Pictorial Encyclopedia
 - (b) International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
 - 5) Commentaries
 - (i) Books written by other men commenting on the passages of the Bible.
 - (a) Realize these are only men.
 - (b) Their insights can be fruitful.
 - (ii) Church library is a wealth of information
- V) How Will I Change to draw closer to God?**
- a) Set aside more time, commit to 15 to 30 minutes daily.
 - b) Planned investigation
 - 1) Chronological Bible Reading
 - 2) Lesson Studies
 - c) Tackle and remove the biggest hinderance.

Conclusion

I can understand what God desires of me.