

## REASONS TO STUDY GOD'S WORD (2 Timothy 2:15)

### 1. To know God.

- a. Without a study of the Bible, there is no way to know God.
  - i. We may have heard of God or know something about God, but we cannot know Him as He really is without knowing Him as He is revealed in His word.
  - ii. Long ago, David told Solomon...(1 Chronicles 28:9).
  - iii. It is just as necessary for us to know God as it was for Solomon.
  - iv. But unless we study God's revelation of Himself to us, there is no way to know God.
- b. One of the greatest sermons on the existence of God was preached nearly 2,000 years ago on the Aeropagus in Athens, Greece.
  - i. Paul was addressing an extremely cultured and educated audience.
  - ii. Notice what he told them...(Acts 17:22-23).
  - iii. These people were on and creating the cutting edge of culture and education in that day.
  - iv. They spent their timing learning new things and teaching new things.
  - v. Yet Paul told them they were ignorant on the subject of God.
  - vi. They were ignorant of the God that gave them the ability to live and move and from whom all their blessings flowed.
- c. Think of the vast amount of knowledge on a multitude of subjects that is available to us as a whole today.
  - i. All we have to do is google something and we can learn about it in a matter of seconds.
  - ii. But how ignorant we are in general about the God who allows us to live and move and from whom all our blessings flow.
- d. There are some amazingly brilliant people in this world who understand things about which I have no inkling of an idea.
  - i. Yet, if you were to ask them about God, they would not know where to begin.
  - ii. They are completely ignorant of the God who blessed them with the ability to understand those ideas on which they are considered experts.
- e. You and I, and anyone else, will never be able to know God using this world's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:21).
- f. Some say that is possible to know God through nature.
  - i. All of the beauty and splendor of nature tells us of the existence of the One who put all things into order.
  - ii. Sadly, though, the answer is no, we cannot come to know God strictly through nature.
- g. In fact, man, without a revelation from God, which the Bible is, when left strictly with nature, falls to worshipping nature.
  - i. Thousands of years ago, those Egyptians who lived along the Nile River realized that when the river flooded, it left silt that greatly enriched their land and provided great harvests.
  - ii. But did they see God in all this?
  - iii. No, instead, they began to worship the Nile River.
- h. When ancient man began to study the skies, he came to realize that the sun

removed the morning fog and warmed them and the earth.

i. Did this cause him to worship the God of heaven who put the sun in its place?

ii. No, instead, he began to worship the sun.

iii. In fact, when the sun went down and the stars came out, he became a star worshiper.

i. There is only one way to know God and that is through His revelation, the Bible!

j. I am aware of what Psalm 19:1 tells us.

k. However, nature declares God's glory only to those who know God and the only way to know God today is through a study of His word.

l. One might ask, "Is it really important to know God?"

i. The answer to that question is found in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.

ii. Those that don't know God will have God's vengeance taken out on them at the return of the Christ.

m. We must study the Bible to know God.

## **2. To know Jesus.**

a. I can read a lot of books and learn about a lot of great men and never know the greatest Man, the Man Christ Jesus.

b. Only through a study of the Bible can we learn about Jesus our Savior.

c. Notice a conversation that took place between Jesus and His disciples.

i. Matthew 16:13-16.

ii. Notice now the response of Jesus (Matthew 16:17).

iii. It was not until heaven revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ did Peter realize it.

iv. Even then, until the Holy Spirit came and fully revealed unto the apostles who Jesus was, they still didn't fully grasp it (John 14:8-9).

d. The Jews condemned and killed Jesus simply because they did not know who and what He was.

i. Why did they not know who Jesus was?

ii. The reason is they did not know the Scriptures as they thought they did (John 5:39).

e. However, on the Day of Pentecost, recorded for us in Acts 2, when they came to learn who Jesus was, numbers of them cried out, "What shall we do?"

i. They came to a realization that they had killed God's only begotten Son.

ii. Not only God's only begotten Son, but their Savior.

f. It is only through a study of God's word, both Old and New Testaments, that we can know Jesus.

i. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah.

ii. The fact that Jesus fulfills everyone of them is recorded in the New Testament and all serve as proof that Jesus is God's Son.

iii. All of the miracles that Jesus performed cry out to us who He is (John 14:11).

g. However, without a study of God's word, we can't know Jesus.

h. Again, one might ask if it is important to know Jesus.

i. Jesus said that it is (John 17:3).

ii. John 14:6.

i. When you take 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, John 17:3, and John 14:6, you see that

- knowing God and Jesus is vital to our salvation.
- j. The only way to know God and Jesus is to know God's word.
- k. The only way to know God's word is to study it.
- l. This is why Paul told the Ephesian elders... (Acts 20:32).
  - i. It is only God's word that is a source of faith (Romans 10:17).
  - ii. Without faith, we can't please God (Hebrews 11:6).
  - iii. So, without study of God's word, there is no way to please God.

### **3. To know God's plan of salvation.**

- a. Jeremiah 10:23.
  - i. You and I, left to our own devices, cannot find the way to salvation..
  - ii. This is the very reason why God has given us a guide book (Psalm 119:105).
  - iii. If we could direct our own steps, we wouldn't need a guide book.
- b. Thankfully, God has revealed to us His gracious plan of salvation.
  - i. Through the offering of the blood of Jesus, you and I can be saved.
  - ii. This comes through the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- c. It is our faith that grants us access to this grace (Romans 5:1-2).
- d. You and I, and all mankind, in order to be saved, must act by faith in order to be saved by God's grace.
- e. Friends, it is not enough to be sincere in what one does in matters of salvation.
  - i. Paul was sincere while a Jew, but was still lost until he did what Ananias told him to do, because he was still in his sins (Acts 22:16).
  - ii. Cornelius was a good man and sincere in everything he did, but he still needed to be told what to do (Acts 10:6).
- f. The Ethiopian eunuch, when approached by Philip and asked if he understood what he was reading, admitted that he couldn't unless he had a guide, or teacher.
  - i. We need a guide in the matter of salvation.
  - ii. That guide is the New Testament of Jesus Christ.
- g. If you have ever wondered whether or not the plan of salvation was important, just consider Jesus sending His apostles into the world to teach it.
  - i. Jesus gave them, and us, what we call the Great Commission.
  - ii. Jesus promised them that as they went they would be treated as He had been.
  - iii. Despite that, they still were to preach and teach "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).
  - iv. Why, at the hazard of their own lives were they to teach this if man can be saved without knowing the plan of salvation?
- h. It does not matter how sincere we are if we are sincerely wrong.
- i. We must study the Bible to know God's plan of salvation.

### **4. It will be the standard of judgment.**

- a. One day, you will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
  - i. Not just you, but all men, and we will each stand before Him as an individual.
  - ii. Romans 14:10.
  - iii. Acts 17:31.

- b. The purpose for standing before the Lord in judgment is told us in 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- c. There is no way to escape this judgment.
  - i. There are only two possible ways to meet it:
  - ii. Prepared or unprepared.
- d. We can all be prepared for that day because we have been given the standard of judgment (John 12:48).
  - i. Our Lord is not going to ask us to what denomination we belonged.
  - ii. He is not going to ask us what manual, catechism, or discipline book we used.
  - iii. He is going to have out His word and it alone (Revelation 20:12).
- e. We mentioned earlier that we must know Jesus in order to have eternal life (John 17:3).
  - i. It is possible to know whether or not we truly know Jesus.
  - ii. 1 John 2:3-4.
- f. We prepare for the day of judgment by studying God's word in order to come to know Jesus so that we can do that which He has commanded us to do.
- g. When we are doing what He has commanded us to do, we can know that we are saved.
- h. It has been my unfortunate pleasure to walk into a classroom having read the wrong material on which I was about to be tested.
  - i. That was not a fun experience.
  - ii. I learned a great lesson that day as you can imagine.
- i. How much infinitely worse will it be to stand before the judgment bar of Jesus and be unprepared because we did not follow the right book while on earth?

From an outline by J. Randel Matheny