

**FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MBC**  
**2016 WINTER BIBLE STUDY**  
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**LESSON TITLE: KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES.**

Lesson Text: 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 10-17

**Introduction:** When a person gets saved, and unites with the Lord's church, that individual is not only giving testimony that they have been born again, but their baptism is also a public profession that they are going to walk in newness of life. That they have been greatly changed, and will live accordingly. From that time forward, any such person should become a worker in the Lord's vineyard. They should witness to others of the Lord's saving grace. They should assemble with the saints to worship. They should pray for others. And they should, from that very moment, begin an exhaustive study of the **HOLY SCRIPTURES**. They should continually learn from them, and become familiar with those things the Lord has said in His written word. Knowing the scriptures is very important for every child of God. It's not just something that is necessary for preachers, or deacons, or those who teach Sunday school. Perhaps throughout our churches, we have not stressed this enough. Perhaps as pastors, we have not stressed this enough to those to whom we preach.

In the scriptures I have read from 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3, Paul spoke of the fact that Timothy had known the Holy Scriptures from his childhood. It is beneficial to everyone to begin acquiring scriptural knowledge in their childhood. But as it is with children in all areas of education, they generally don't choose to take it up on their own, so they need responsible adults to teach them.

In Deuteronomy 6, Israel was told that the commandments, statutes, and judgments of the Lord were to be taught to their children. They were given this instruction: And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (Deuteronomy 6: 6&7)

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1: 5, Paul spoke of calling to remembrance the unfeigned faith that was in Timothy, but said that it dwelt first in his grandmother Lois, and in his mother Eunice. I believe we can very safely assume that they played a big part in him knowing the scriptures from his childhood.

As Christian parents, we have a responsibility to teach the scriptures to our children, and every church has this responsibility towards young converts. The commission the Lord gave to his church was to make disciples through the preaching of the gospel, to baptize those converts in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to observe all the Lord's commandments. (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Knowing the scriptures is a tremendous benefit. Psalm 119: 105 says; *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* This was not only true for the Psalmist, but can be true for everyone. As we make our journey through this world that is filled with darkness, God's word can illuminate our path and keep our feet headed in the right direction. However, God's word can only accomplish this for those who take the time to become familiar with it. Prior to making this statement, we find in Psalm 119: 97, that the Psalmist said; *Oh how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day.*

How do we obtain scriptural knowledge?

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15 says: *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Given the fact that this epistle was written to Timothy, we know these were instructions given to a preacher. **NO PREACHER CAN PREACH GOD'S WORD, IF HE DOESN'T KNOW IT, AND NO PREACHER CAN KNOW GOD'S WORD, IF HE DOESN'T STUDY IT!**

Knowing God's word is an absolute necessity for those whom God has called to preach, because God's word is what we have been told to preach.

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4: 1&2- *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

**Preach the word;** *be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

Even though what is written in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15 concerning the study of God's word, was instruction given to preachers, the concept holds true for all of God's children. To know the scriptures, you must study. You can attempt to sidestep this by saying, I will just listen to my Sunday school teacher each week, or the pastor's sermon each week, and I will obtain a good knowledge of the scriptures.

Listen, if you don't make notes about what you heard, and go over it again, or listen to an audio tape, to remind you of what was said, most people will not retain knowledge of what they heard for more than a few days. If you don't believe this is true, just let your pastor or Sunday school teacher ask you to tell them what you heard them say two weeks ago! Any good teacher, who is really concerned about their student's education, will encourage them to take what they have been told and study it for themselves.

When you hear the word of God, whether it is your pastor preaching, another preacher preaching, or your Sunday school teacher teaching, as the scriptures are spoken you should be hearing things that you are already familiar with. When your pastor references a certain chapter and verse and tells what it says, the children of God who are listening should often be able to say, yes, I'm familiar with that, I have read that many times.

Avoid telling someone the Bible says something that it doesn't say. When you hear the statement, **THE BIBLE SAYS**; and you are not familiar with what you are being told, it is a great idea to first look for yourself, and be sure the Bible actually says that before you tell anyone else it does. You don't have to feel as if you are questioning the integrity of the one who said it, you're just being realistic, and after all, no preacher or teacher that you hear is perfect. Anyone is capable of making a mistake. Too often someone has said the Bible says such and such, without any personal knowledge of whether or not it actually says it. It is just repeated because someone told them it is in there.

Consider what is said in Acts 17: 10&11: *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night into Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

*These 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.*

Be able to back up your testimony of salvation by the scriptures. If you are witnessing to someone whose hope of salvation is based upon their own works, or upon having been baptized, when you share your experience and speak to that person about the necessity of the new birth, don't just expect them to take you at your word, give them scriptural proof, there is plenty of it in the book!

\* If you are going to tell someone they are in error concerning what they believe, you have the responsibility to tell them why.

We need to be able to give a scriptural explanation as to why we believe what we believe. Why we believe what we do concerning salvation. Why we believe what we do about baptism. Why we believe what we do about the church. Why we believe what we do about the eternal security of the believer. Why we believe what we do about the end of time. They may not embrace it, or believe it, but you gave them what God says about it.

If you lack knowledge or wisdom, get help. Talk to your pastor, talk to those you have confidence in and see if they can help you understand. Paul wrote this to Timothy and it is recorded in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:2: *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.* Talk to God and seek his help. There is no greater teacher than the Holy Spirit. James 1: 5 says, *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.* Learning what the scriptures say requires reading, learning what they mean requires prayer!

Learning the scriptures has something in common with anything one may attempt to learn. It requires time. If you study the scriptures 1 hour per day, you will learn more than you will by studying 1 minute per day. It really becomes a question of priority, because to spend time engaged in the study of God's word, means that you must choose not to spend that time involved with something else, and truly, this should not be a problem, because there should be a desire in the heart of every child of God to know his word! However, the devil will do his best to put things before you to distract you.

Having knowledge of the scriptures is not just personally advantageous. It also equips us to help others. In Acts 8, we read the account of an Ethiopian Eunuch who had been to Jerusalem to worship, but he was not saved. He was sitting in the chariot reading the writings of Isaiah. Acts 8: 32&33 says: *The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:*

*In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth.* This man had a dilemma. He did not understand who Isaiah was talking about. Was he talking about himself, was he talking about some other man? He had already admitted to Philip that he didn't understand, that he needed guidance, he needed help. What a great blessing it became to this man that the Lord sent someone to him that knew the scriptures. That knew Isaiah was speaking of Jesus. He took those same scriptures, and preached Jesus to him, and he got saved!

Ephesians 4: 14&15: *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*

A personal knowledge of the scriptures will help you avoid such pitfalls. Otherwise you are subject to great error.

**Closing:** Mark 12: 18-27:

*(18) Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, (19) Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leaves his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. (20) Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed. (21) And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise. (22) And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. (23) In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? For the seven had her to wife. (24) And Jesus answering said unto them, **Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures,** neither the power of God? (25) For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven. (26) And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? (27) He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.*