

Study

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[0:00] My message this morning is, why should I be a Bible student? Why should I study the Bible?! 2 Timothy 2 verse 15.

! 2 Timothy 2 verse 15 says, Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

I'll say that again. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

There it is. God tells us, apply yourself to study, to rightly divide the word, the word of truth, to be a diligent worker of the word.

Truly it is God's word. The word of truth. The word of truth. God's plan for man. His truth. If you want to be a workman, a useful Christian, then read this book.

[1:11] Read the word of God. Read the word of God, the word of truth. Receive the word. Apply yourself to read and heed his word. You know, I was talking to someone just earlier in the service saying that they needed an electrician.

And I said, do you know, do you know a good one? and he says I do. He must have picked an electrician who knows his stuff.

A workman that has studied electricity. We need to be workmen of the word, don't we? We need to be labourers of the word of God because it is God's truth.

It's the most important truth. And if you want to be a useful Christian, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, then study the Bible. Receive it and study it.

Take it to heart. Rightly divided. If you want to be a workman, approved unto God, then study. And we're not talking about studying any old course of study. I know there's people here still engaged in study.

[2:14] I know not long ago I did some study online for a secular purpose. And it's useful to study, to expand the mind, to learn new stuff, to expand your knowledge.

But there's no greater course of study, no greater subject than the Bible. This is the greatest subject we can ever study. Young people, youngsters here, the Bible is the best subject that you can study. Get your teeth into your Bible. I know as a young Christian, I was enthused to receive various messages. I tuned into the gospel radio, and I just couldn't get enough.

And I know there's a brother here madly writing some notes. That's a good habit to get into, to get a pen and paper and jot things down. I know for myself, I need to do that all the time lately.

But we know it helps us to lock things in, doesn't it? Whatever helps you to learn. Whatever helps you to lock it in, to lodge it in here. Write it down, reread your notes, underline your Bible, mark it, let it be something that you want to have more and more of.

[3:29] We're not talking about just studying anything. We're talking about studying the Bible. The Bible. Rightly dividing it.

It is divided into a wonderful library of 66 books. Yet, united as one wonderful book. An incomparable book.

A book beyond anything like it. It was written by 40 different writers on three continents over a period of 2,000 years. And these men came from all walks of life.

From kings to shepherds. From fishermen to doctors. Yet, their writings never contradict. It's one book.

Because the Holy Spirit is the divine author. It was written first for the heart of man, but also for the mind and the body's benefits.

[4:27] It's a healthy book. You can get some health benefits from the book. As well as soul benefits. Spirit benefits. It is the most important

book in the whole wide world.

Over 5 billion copies have been sold or given away of this book. 5 billion. Really, they've got no way of reckoning the whole number because it's just massive.

Apply yourself. Study the Bible. So you can come to know God. There's so much jam-packed within the pages of this book, within the covers of your Bible.

This is jam-packed. It explains the origin and creation of all things. And the destiny. The future. What lies ahead.

The creation and the culmination. Everything. It's got the A to Z in this book, hasn't it? The Bible is God's written revelation of himself.

[5:30] Biblical knowledge. It's so vital. So important. Study so you can build up your faith. The Bible says, Study to show thyself approved unto God.

A workman that needeth not to be ashamed. Rightly dividing the word of truth. And furthermore, it tells us that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. This word can save your soul. This word, if you trust the saviour of which it tells, this book has a soul-saving message.

A soul-transforming message. This word is going to prepare us for the world to come. Not just for the present. But not just the here and now.

But the hereafter. This book, if we study the Bible, it will prepare us for the judgment. And this book is eternally profitable for you.

[6:36] Now I know some have heard me before do this. And I like to do this because it's a way of remembering the Bible.

And people would have known. I know some of you have heard me do this before. And others may not have. So for that purpose, I'm going to go through this. When I was a young Christian, I had the privilege of going to a Bible school.

Thanks to my parents paying the bill, I was able to go to a Bible school. And at that Bible school, there was a man who liked to put the scripture to song.

And in particular, he put this Bible verse into song. So I'm going to sing it to you, if you bear with me, as you read along as well. So I've got to kind of look so I know where I'm up to.

But it's the words of Paul to Timothy. And it helps us remember the Bible when we put it to song.

[7:42] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise, unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

that the man of God may be perfect, through faith furnished unto all good works.

All scripture is given by its single owner of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

that the man of God may be perfect, through faith furnished unto all good works.

[9:14] Let's do it again, shall we? Let's try that again, shall we? But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise, unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, through faith furnished unto all good works.

Amen. Good singing. Good song, isn't it? The word of God. What better song can we sing? I know there's some who sing psalms, and I've got a liking for that intention as well.

Study to learn God's will for you. What he wants for you to do. What better source of that than his very message, the scriptures. Study so you can bear fruit that endures.

Study so you can receive God's blessing for your life. These words can truly bring us hope and comfort. It tells us that for whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

[11:06] The word of God has brought so much good to the world. It's a blessed book, and it'll bless your life. It'll bless your soul. The blessed book will bring a blessing. When people have rejected the guidance of the Bible, we see that through history, through various nations, they're in darkness.

What was that word you said before? A gross darkness. A gross darkness. But yet the word of God brings light and life. Where people have trusted the word of God, the Bible, it has changed their lives.

It's changed their course of history. It's changed nations that have benefited from biblical principles. And we see today many literary countries are the product of Bible-believing Christianity.

Missionaries have gone in, and the people have been raised to a higher level of living. Many institutions of learning and hospitals are due to Christian input.

Advances in science are many because of the Bible. So study, you can gain from it, you can gain benefit, most especially eternal benefit, if you'll heed its message, if we receive the Saviour that it speaks of.

[12:17] In Joshua 1, the Lord says to Joshua, Joshua, this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein.

For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then shalt thou have good success. Joshua's promise, meditate in this book. Let its words, let them mull over, let them be repeated inside of your mind.

Let you repeat them with your mouth. Let them meditate in your heart, day and night. Speak it, let it not depart out of your mouth. Recite the Bible.

Have some Bible memory verses. I know I've mentioned this again before. One of the most important things that I did as a young Christian man was to try to memorise the Bible.

Try to put some memory verses, write them down, and it doesn't matter how old you are, you can memorise the Bible. You can memorise, even if it's just one verse at a time, one after another.

[13:32] And have those cards to remind yourself, jog your memory till you don't need to jog your memory anymore. The Bible is living and it is eternal. God gave us a book that will never pass away.

Our Lord Jesus says, heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Matthew 24. We can have confidence. We have the very words, plural, the very words, every jot and tittle, every full stop and comma, every minutest component that the Lord Jesus wanted his church to have, we have in our hands today.

He says, my words shall not pass away. And he tells us furthermore, in the epistle of Peter, 1 Peter 1.25, but the word of the Lord endureth forever.

And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. This is a living book. It's an eternal book. It's a forever book, the Bible. The Bible is eternal.

We read that the word of God is quick, which means alive. It's living. The opposite of the dead is the quick, the quick and the dead. This book is quick. It's alive.

[14:44] It's living. And it is powerful. And it is sharper than any two-edged sword. Piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.

This will get to the very core of you. This will speak to the real you. Right down into the very depths, where the surgeons can't penetrate. Into the very reins and the very core of your heart.

This word will speak to the very inner man, the inner soul of a person. Piercing asunder, the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Such a tremendous book. Wow, shouldn't we quake? Shouldn't we tremble? Shouldn't we revere? Shouldn't we uphold? He's exalted his word above his own name. Such a tremendous book.

A book that will endure forever. Forever. Certainly, it should demand our most careful study. This is not just studying your times table or the alphabet.

[15:45] This is, wow, eternal. It's living. It's alive. It's quick and powerful. It's quick and powerful. And certainly, we should take heed of

it. We should study the Bible, because it is the source of true spiritual light.

A familiar one here, And the word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119. It's a psalm full of the word of God.

Psalm 119. Make that your homework today. So read Psalm 119. Right through. Such a blessed psalm about the Bible, the word of God.

Such a treasure. It's a lamp unto my feet, so in the immediate, and a light unto my path. It shows the way to go ahead. Helps me in the present, a lamp unto my feet, and it also is a light cast on the path ahead.

The direction that God wants for me. God's guidance for my life. Psalm 119. 104. It says, Through thy precepts I get understanding. Therefore, I hate every false way.

[16:51] Living in a world where everybody says, Love, love, love. Same love. Love, love, love. Or they use the word love, as if it somehow is beyond that which is false.

But when it is false, we should hate that, the Bible says. We should hate what is false. We should hate what is wrong. We should hate that which is evil. We should hate that which God says is an abomination.

We don't love that which is evil. We should hate every false way. We don't hate the people who are trapped and ensnared and captive and slaves to sin.

We want to reach them with this message of hope and life and love. Yet, we must hate that which is evil, which is false. We hate every false way. But through thy precepts, I get understanding.

And it tells us, The entrance of thy words giveth light. It giveth understanding unto the simple. The entrance of thy words brings light. We should study the Bible because it's enlightening.

[18:00] This is a dazzling, beaming, powerful light. A glowing, shining, vibrant, darkness dispelling light.

And wow, your eyes just go wide open when you get a load of what God is saying. And you know, some people go and have this view, Oh, I've got to go and hear such and such an evangelist or such and such a miracle worker.

And they're going to utter some words over me and they're going to give me a word for my life.

God's already given you a word for your life. It's right here in the pages of this book.

You don't need to hear some extra biblical revelation. Suppose it. You need God's revelation for your soul. And his word brings light.

His word. We should study the Bible with the goal of obeying its truth, applying it to our lives, doing what God commands of us. James 1.22, it says, But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

[19:10] It's a book we can apply. It's relevant. It's real. This will help you Monday morning through when we get together again. This is the book that we need.

The early believers received the word with all readiness of mind and they searched the scriptures daily, day by day by day, whether those things were so. They checked out the preacher.

Check him out. Does it line up? This is the measuring line. This is the plumb line. If it doesn't line up with this, it's out of line with God and we don't want a bar of it.

They received the word with all readiness of mind. They searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. We should study the Bible because it's an authoritative book.

It's God's authority stamped on it. After all, it says it's the authorised version. Amen? It's not authorised so much by a king, but by the king of kings. It's God's authority.

[20:14] It's God stamped on this book. It's God's authority. And most ancient writings do not even profess inspiration, but the Bible professes not only to be inspired, but to be the only inspired writing.

You know, you see, everything else pales into nothingness, doesn't it? You see the Vedas or the Koran, whatever it be, or the supposed holy writings of the Bhagavad, or whatever he's called.

You know, it's a lot of tripe. In comparison, there's no comparison with the word of God in so-called holy writings. And then you've got the imaginations of the prophet Joseph Smith.

What a con. What a lie. What a falsehood. This is authoritative. It's the only inspired writing. As Isaiah recorded in chapter 8, verse 20, to the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according

to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

The central character of the Bible, really, he goes from Genesis through Revelation, the central character of the Bible is our Lord Jesus Christ. He's there from beginning to end, right through. [21:30] It's weaved in every page, in every book. The Lord Jesus, he shows himself to be the only way to heaven. And unlike ancient philosophers, the men of the Bible are men who speak with great power, certainty, and authority.

We should study the Bible because the Bible is an infallible book. Although many have tried and tried and are still trying, no one has ever proven a mistake in the Bible.

They have failed miserably to find anything to pick fault. There's apparent errors and contradictions that can be readily explained through comparing Scripture with Scripture and by closely studying the context that any such alleged contradictions can be dismissed and explained.

This book is 100% reliable, 100% tried and true. We should study the Bible because the Bible is an ancient book that is timeless.

Really, it's the oldest real book in the world. It was the first book printed on a press. We should study the Bible because the Bible is a prophetic book.

[22:44] While other ancient writings do not even attempt prophecy, the Bible attempts it and fulfills it. It's in here and it's proven.

Time has proven it true. We see, for example, as many testimonies, many Old Testament prophecies about the life of our Lord Jesus. And we see that right through as many references I could cite of such.

Plus, we have prophecies of things yet future, yet to come. The Bible holds messages about the future yet to be fulfilled.

Revelation 1 verse 3, we're told, John writes, Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein for the time is at hand. There's a blessing here. John says, You're blessed if you read this. He says, You're blessed if you hear this. Because he says, You're blessed if you keep this. Because it's, for what is going to happen?

[23:55] The time is at hand. The fulfilment is imminent. It tells us what lies ahead in world history as yet unwritten.

So, I know some have said, This is more current than today's newspaper. This is the good news that is more current, more contemporary. It's more enlightening than any fake news or real news. Because this is God's good news. Amen. So, we've seen why we should study the Bible. Now, how? How are we to study the Bible? Rightly divided, it says.

So, take it in its context, in the meaning, in the sense of it, in the relation of it, in, as to who it's addressing and where and when, and the scope of that.

We can't just, you know, use the kind of finger on the page method and say, I'm going to claim this promise and, not necessarily. I mean, that can happen. But, yet, it's about being a diligent Bible student.

[25:05] That you understand in the context, in the circumstance, historic and, and, in the context of the book, paragraph, and such.

And what the author was addressing at that time. How are we to study the Bible? Commit it to your mind. Again, meditate, memorise the Bible.

I can't stress how critical and important that is. Take it literally. Grasp the context and seek God's guidance.

How are we to study the Bible? Be aware of types and foreshadows. For example, there's various offerings and feasts in Leviticus that are still important for us today.

There's still a meaning in them. There's meaning hidden, as it were. There's meaning underlying those pictures, those shadows of that which is to come. We see certain truths about our Lord Jesus Christ in his three offices as prophet, priest, and king.

[26:08] We see Moses and Joshua as great leaders of God's people, themselves, as types of Christ. There's instances where we can see something of the Lord Jesus Christ in Moses, in the life of Joshua, which is alike to the word Jesus.

And we see, of course, those Christophanies, those appearances of Christ in pre-incarnation days as he was present, as he was present in that fiery cloud, in that pillar of fire by day and by night. How do we study the Bible? Use helps to study. Get a King James Bible. Develop a regular reading habit. Make time.

Make a committed time. Lock out time for the Bible. Make it something that it has to be regular to take the Bible.

That way you'll become familiar with its characters, with its wordings, with its precious promises and valuable lessons and its doctrinal truths. Now, use a dictionary.

[27:22] Use helps. The Bible helps. There's some good books. You can build a good, godly Christian library. That doesn't mean you've got to have stacks and stacks of shelves.

It's being selective about some good material to help you study. The more familiar you become with the Bible, the more you'll enjoy it. Take your Bible with you as you go about each day.

It can be, you might not just have one, you might have multiple Bibles. So you might have one that you use on your desk at home. There's one that you carry in your car, in your glove box.

There's another that you might have in your bag or your workstation at work. Whatever it be, you can have a Bible with you so you've got it handy. You've got it present.

Oh yeah, of course, you can put it on your phone, of course. That's always handy. Come to God's word with an attitude of prayer.

[28:18] When you study the Bible, you need the author with you and he is present as you study. Pray for his wisdom and understanding. To be a workman, approved in God's sight, be prayerful.

Here's a good prayer to pray. As the psalmist cried, Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Pray, Lord, open my eyes.

As you open your Bible, Lord, open my eyes. Speak to me. Teach me. Lead me. Explain this to me. Guide me. Pray as you open your Bible. And make a habit to mark your Bible.

Get some good Bible markers. I know some of my dear family members have got Bibles that look a mess because they've read it so much and it's just my way of thinking it looks messy.

But to them, they know what the red means and the yellow and the blue and the green and they know what this means and that means and they've got writings in the margins and writings here and there.

[29:22] Because it's a good habit to mark your Bible. It's your Bible. And you'll be glad you did as you get older and you see, oh, where was that verse?

Oh, here it is. I can see I marked it in yellow and I underlined it here and whatnot. And I circled those special words and verses that spoke to me. Write those notes and references in your Bible.

Get a good concordance like a Young's or a Strong's, a concordance that you can flick open. I know I was talking with a sister lately. We went and a couple of sisters and I went and met someone who had a need and we were kind of scratching our heads trying to find where was that verse because we knew that we had to find it and I know that our sister here had a concordance in the back of her Bible which is quite a good help too although we still couldn't readily locate that verse.

But having a concordance helps you to remember you can find oh there was a verse that says whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. You can look up the word whosoever call or name of the Lord and you can do that with a computer concordance too.

You can yeah Google of course and you can use for example eSword is a good one and if people need a good Bible software program we can get you one that you can load onto your computer.

[30:44] We've got some CD and let us know let me know and I'll put your order in and it'll be completely zero dollars while this deal lasts you know for a limited time only it's only zero dollars.

So if you can afford that and if you've got a computer and you don't have a Bible software on it then come and tell me we'll help you to load it so you've got a good study software program.

and these are the sorts of helps that will help you to find that word that verse oh where was that verse you can look it up really quickly and you can help with your personal study and also a Bible dictionary too.

So don't be afraid you know sometimes people they spend money willy nilly on all sorts of things but they don't spend money on getting a good Bible. What better thing can you use to put your money into then getting yourself a decent good Bible a King James Bible a King James Bible which study notes can be helpful too.

Get yourself some good Bible material study guides I can suggest some afterwards to you and get yourself a concordance study to show yourself approved unto God it's so important study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of God the word of truth take it literally and practically of course unless it says otherwise it's literally and practically never mysteriously some people think oh and they get these these you know latter day teachers who talk about Bible codes and oh the meaning's here it's hidden in this in this verse oh that's got a certain you know they're trying to read into these magical things that are in the words of the Bible as if there's some hidden code in there now I'm not saying that there might be some mysterious things in there but take it as read we don't need to kind of conjure up some kind of wishful and imaginary thinking and try to read things that aren't evidently there take it as read the plain reading of it there's enough sense for us to make sense of it and apply it of course you know there are things not to take literally where it talks about anthropomorphisms where you know it's talking about as it were for example

[33:19] God as being like a a hen who covers his cheeks it doesn't mean that God's some big hen you know but of course there are things that are figurative that are pictures for us and so study to show yourself approved amen this is the word of truth the Bible is absolutely true young people this is the truest thing you can ever get a hold of this is not fiction this is non-fiction and it's the best non-fiction you can ever get your hands on it's absolutely true it's got prophetic accuracy there's some 33 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah fulfilled to the letter it's God's prophetic word no other book on the planet gets anything near close to that it's got prophetic accuracy it's got historical accuracy every event and place has been documented as true in contrast to that you get the book of Mormon which talks about some civilizations and towns and cities and events and scenarios and battles where there's meant to be thousands of dead bodies in the ground and it's woefully it's a total falsehood and fakery whereas in contrast the Bible the word of God the word of truth it's got historic accuracy it absolutely measures up with the findings of archaeology and also it's got scientific accuracy where it describes the earth as it were as a ball suspended in space as it's hanged he hangs the earth on nothing whereas other religions talk of fanciful things such the earth sitting on the backs of elephants and such such tripe so how confident was the Lord Jesus with the Bible the Lord Jesus says that every word proceeds out of the mouth of God that's inspiration he taught the preservation of scripture that God has kept his word and we see the church of the end times they kept the word of God they had a hold of it they knew what it was and they held onto it they held it firmly they held it fast the Lord Jesus never corrected or criticized scripture

I like to say where it says in the Greek it says in the Greek it's exactly what it says here because this translates the Greek this is what it says in the Greek the word of God in our hands is the word of God of course we can find some benefits from other inferences we can gather but we don't have to correct this book because it is true the Lord Jesus taught the absolute authority of the Bible and he rejected the Apocrypha the added books that the Roman Catholic Church adds and he taught that man will be judged by the word of God the Lord Jesus taught that the word of God is perfect from start to finish that it is eternal it is true thy word is truth it's complete there's nothing to be added there's no new installment there's no another testament of

Jesus Christ there's no latter-day revelations that you can you know there's some people that almost think oh what did that prophet say I'm going to write that into just after Revelation 22 I'll add that into the Bible no you don't add to it you don't add to it it's here it's 100% guaranteed it's complete and it's sufficient it's sufficient for us it's profitable for doctrine for reproof for correction for

instruction the man of God can be truly thoroughly completely furnished unto all good works what should we do with our Bible Isaiah 66 says trample at it wow this is God's wow this is hot stuff this is burning and alive this is wow ouch that's talking to me read it study it obey it use it apply it and just to just to close some things some C words about the word of God taking notes

C words the word will convert you we're born again by the word of God 1 Peter 1 23 does someone know that offhand I'm looking at someone he's usually got usually got it on the tip of their tongue 1 Peter 1 23 being born again being born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever it is able to convert it's able to cleanse you he says you claim by my word it's able to command you it's able to change you it's able to cause you to rejoice Psalm 119 162 I'll just look that one up because I'm curious what that is Psalm 119 162 it says it is able to make a hardened man leap for joy 162 I rejoice at thy word as one that findeth great spoil

I rejoice at thy word wow this is this gladness and rejoicing in my heart this gives me a spring in my step this makes me want to jump for joy I rejoice in thy word as one that findeth great spoil this book will cause you to rejoice this will give you a joy unspeakable and full of glory to know the saviour the bible perfect alive eternal true complete powerful sufficient rightly divided if I can just impress on you again this very scripture study to show thyself approved unto God a work when that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth use this word correctly accurately with integrity to fail to study the bible you're missing out you're missing out you're missing so much if you fail to study the bible this will bring doubt it'll bring discouragement emptiness a feeling that God is not with you it's here the comfort of the scriptures is here the encouragement that hope that joy that rejoicing ask him to reveal his truth to you open mine eyes help me to see those wondrous things lean on the holy spirit's illuminating ask him to reveal its truths of course we know that the truth of the bible it's got to have a spiritual kind of revelation there's

[40:22] God's illumination and you might be hearing this and say preacher I'm not saved I don't know what you're going on about this is not how I feel about the bible you may not know him as your lord and saviour I urge you to hear the message of this book it talks about being born again of that seed which is not going to perish this seed will live forever the seed the incorruptible seed being born again by the word of god and the lord jesus says no man can see the kingdom of god unless he is born again you must come to know him as your lord and saviour come to know him and put your trust in him let go of your old life and receive his new life receive his gift I urge you today to trust him and as a saved man a saved woman here is the next the most critical source of what to do next you know

Paul said what will you have me to do wow he's given us in a leather cover amen he's given us what would you have me to do lord okay study heed receive rightly divide the word of god let's pray our lord god we thank you for your precious word it is a joy to our hearts to know the glad message of your saving grace and we pray for everyone present to know that fully and completely and personally to know you as saviour and lord and then to hear your word to make it live in our hearts and lives to walk in our shoes lord let it be that we put your word into action not just to be hearers but doers of it in Jesus name amen