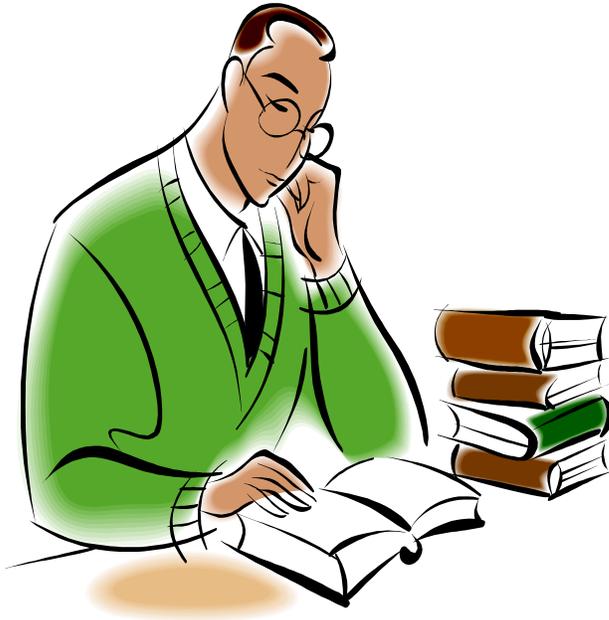


Handling Accurately

The Word

Of GOD

(2 Tim. 2:15)



Lessons Designed To...

...Ground Young Disciples In Divine Truth

...Equip Saints In Talking To Unbelievers

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Lesson 1 – General Introduction

Overview

The N.T. religion of Jesus Christ is a way of life, revealing God's intentions for our moral & spiritual well-being. But, it is also a doctrine (*a system of truths*) we are to know. Beyond that, it is also something we are to teach to others. The *only* prescribed way the Scripture reveals for the gospel being spread is for believers to teach others (Mt. 28:20; 2 Tim. 2:2). To teach it, we must know it.

We're going to come into contact with others who think, believe, and worship differently that we do. The reason for this is because some have a "...a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:2b-3). They have decided "...they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths" (2 Tim. 4:3b-4).

The *only* way to please God is to know and practice His will (Eph. 5:17; Mt. 7:21).

The N.T. places an emphasis on knowing Divine truth. It also teaches that is primarily how we avoid religious error ourselves, and is how we are going to be able to help others caught up in that error. As an example, consider Paul's words to the Christians at Colossae:

- though previously alienated from God, they were reconciled through Christ (Col. 1:20-22)
- this reconciliation is contingent ("if") upon them "...continuing in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven" (Col. 1:23)
- the danger of being deceived with persuasive words of men is always present (Col. 2:4)
- to avoid this, they needed to be "...firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" (Col. 2:7)
- they were warned "...lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Col. 2:8)

All Christians need to be mindful of the importance of being grounded in truth. None of us should ever think we don't need such a "reminder" (1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Pet. 1:12-15). Even more so, younger saints (*with the help of parents*) need to pay close attention to these important Biblical warnings. Knowledge of truth does 2 things:

- 1) it enables us to serve God acceptably
- 2) it prepares us to do battle with Satan
 - we can overcome his temptations (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10)
 - we can withstand his servants and the error they teach (Eph. 6:10-18)
 - notice the "girdle" (*the part of the armor holding everything together*) is "truth" (v. 14)

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Lesson 1

The young need to think about God and His word while they are young (**Eccl. 12:1a**). To put off serving God until one's later years is spiritually dangerous. You might not live to see those years (**Jas. 4:14**). Even if you are fortunate to grow old, you might become hardened through sin (**Heb. 3:13**). The Scripture offers Timothy as a good example of a faithful young person. Consider Paul's words to him:

- though most likely not a teenager, he was still considered a "youth" (**1 Tim 4:12a**)
- he was to be an "...example to the believers in word..." (**1 Tim. 4:12b**)
- he was to "...give attention to doctrine" until Paul could come to him (**1 Tim. 4:13**)
- he was also to "...take heed to himself and to the doctrine" (**1 Tim. 4:16**)
- he had benefited from godly teaching at home with his mother & grandmother (**2 Tim. 1:5**)
- he had "...known the Holy Scriptures since childhood..." (**2 Tim. 3:15**)

Thinking about all the good Timothy did for the cause of Christ, it all began in his early days as a child. He was taught Biblical truth...first by his family, then by an apostle. That is how he was "armed" for himself and for his service in the Lord's kingdom in later years.

It is the duty of parents to teach, and it is the obligation of children to learn. The home is primarily responsible for instructing children (**Eph. 6:4**). Yet, the church needs to supplement that teaching when opportunities allow. The Bible needs to be understood from its narrative (story) perspective. Gospel preaching needs to be understandable for young people. Classes (*both in and out of a curriculum*) need to be scheduled where Bible basics and fundamentals are taught and reviewed on a regular basis. Once you have the "big picture" settled in your mind, all future study on specific topics will be easier to master and will make a lot more sense to you. Remember...even if you already know truth on a Biblical subject, review is always profitable (**2 Pet. 1:12-15**).

Focus

Each lesson in this series will be on a Biblical "topic." These "topics" are "common" with N.T. Christians as well as people who believe and worship based on man-made denominationalism. What we mean by this is that we've heard about baptism...so have they. Our church is organized...so is theirs. The difference between them and us is based our understanding and practice of these "topics."

Don't forget...we're always to be ready to answer for our faith when opportunities arise (**1 Pet. 3:15**). When we talk to our friends & family about these "topics," we will be able to have meaningful and profitable conversations that will get right to the core of what we believe and what they believe. We're only going to do any good if we are grounded in the truth.

Study the points of emphasis on each Biblical "topic." Read all the passages of Scripture provided in each lesson. If you can think of others that go along with the lesson, add them in your notes. This little notebook can become your own "reference guide" to help you in these conversations. Then, think about the man-made doctrines & ideas provided at the bottom of each lesson. Use the Bible verses to be able to refute these commonly-held beliefs. While someone will be teaching each lesson, we want you to come to each class prepared to discuss and share with others what you've thought about from your own studies.