

Why do we study the Word of God?

A sermon by Asaolu, O.S. (asaolu@yahoo.com) delivered at COC, Akoka on Oct 24, 2010

Definition:

1. Application of the mind to the acquisition of knowledge, as by reading, investigation, or reflection: long hours of study.
2. Research or a detailed examination and analysis of a subject, phenomenon, etc.

Thus study means reading and meditation upon a subject as to its meaning, ramification, contextualization and application.

Text: 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

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1. It is a commanded activity (2 Tim 2:15), a noble activity (Acts 17:11) and a blessed activity (Rev 1:3)
 2. To walk in the light and not in darkness –Ps 111:105
 3. To implant the Lord’s word in our heart and not sin against him – Ps 111:11, Mt 4:3-10
 4. So as not to perish for lack of knowledge –Hosea 4:6. The scriptures declare the works of God and his mind on pertinent issues like redemption, worship, death & afterlife, etc.
 5. Of all books, it is the only one really worth studying –Ecc 12:12, Joshua 1:8, Deut 17:18 -20, Acts 26:24-25
 6. For ‘learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope’ –Rm 15:4
 7. To discern both from examples and instructions, how God reward individuals for their works, whether good or bad -1 Cor 10:6-11
 8. To know the truth and be set free from ignorance and error –Jn 8:32, Mt 22:29
 9. To know permissible limits, so as not to go beyond that which is written -1 Cor 4:6
 10. To know Christ and those things he has given us for life and godliness -2 Pet 1:3
 11. To know ALL religious truth which the Spirit has revealed unto Christ’s apostles and prophets (1 Cor 2:7-10) because it was once delivered and written for us to understand –Jude 3, Eph 3:3-5
 12. So as to be doers of the word who shall be justified –James 1:21-24
 13. To continue in Christ’s word and be blessed in our resulting deeds –James 1:25-26
 14. Since God is no longer speaking verbally to men, we study to know His words which constitute
 - a) a rock upon which to build our lives -Mt 7:24-27
 - b) the words of eternal life –Jn 6:68
 - c) a declaration of God’s will which must be done to enter heaven –Mt 7:21
 - d) the standard by which we shall be judged –John 12:48
 15. To be armed with the sword of the spirit as we are engaged in a spiritual warfare -Eph 6:17
 16. To be grounded and not easily tossed about by every wind of doctrine of cunning men –Eph 4:14
 17. To be able to prove all things, identify and cleave to that which is good -1Thess 5:21, Eph 5:10,17
 18. To be able to answer everyone who questions our faith -1 Pet 3:15
 19. To be able to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith -2 Cor 13:5, Rm 10:17; 14:33
 20. For instruction (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - a. in righteousness (to know those things that are right and holy by divine standards)
 - b. reproof (admonition of things that fall short, rebuke of sin and ungodliness)
 - c. correction (of wayward thoughts and ways)
 - d. in doctrine (sound teachings of God’s will for our dispensation)
 - e. to be complete, lacking nothing, thoroughly equipped for all good works
 21. Not to be ashamed (before anyone) and to be approved of God -2 Tim 2:15
 22. a) To shun profane and vain babbling (2 Tim 2:16)
 - b) To not speak evil of dignities (Jude 8-11) and affirm what we know not -1Tim 1:7
 - c) To speak as the oracles of God -1 Pet 4:11

In view of the above, it is worrisome that many individual brethren and churches of Christ seem reluctant to apply what is studied to remedy situations. For example, the preacher of recent has taught on the need to;

- a) visit and interact with new converts
- b) To forgive and use bible conflict resolution mechanism
- c) remove impediments/distractions to worship
- d) predominantly use choruses and avoid hymns that can not be understood or contextualized.

Seems we perceive these as difficult to accept and procrastinate on obedience. Another brother has taught on the training and acquirement of evangelists, etc. *It was mooted that such problem is global and should be resolved co-jointly by churches as if we are no longer self-governing. Why should making a decision be difficult after seeing the truth?*

Conclusion: Consciences are injured and our service to God is tainted when we refuse or delay to put our study into practice. We can hardly worship in spirit if it is evident that we are deviating from the truth.