

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY (PART II)

It is important that God the Holy Spirit is our real teacher, and we must rely on Him to reveal the truth of the Scriptures. Jesus said, "He, the Spirit of truth...will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). Jesus also stated that "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things..." (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian, and we are His temple (I Corinthians 6:19). Therefore, the Holy Spirit is always present to teach the truths of God to us. According to the Apostle Paul, God has prepared many things for us that can only be revealed through His Spirit. "But God has revealed them to through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of a man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things that have been freely given to us by God...the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:10-13). The Apostle John tells us that we "have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things...But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teaches you..." (I John 2:20, 27). This means that we don't need teachers with mere earthly to teach us about God. They are unable, because they do not possess the Holy Spirit.

Just because the Holy Spirit is our teacher does not mean we do not need to study. We are told to "be diligent (study KJV) to show yourself approved unto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). We are to be sensitive to the Spirit of God in the learning process. God always works in response to our willingness and eagerness to know and obey Him. It is God who places the desire in us to know His Word "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 1:13). It is up to us to respond to what God is working in us.

We must be aware that the deeper things of the Word are not reserved for a few special individuals, but are available to all who will "search the Scriptures" (John 5:39). The Christians in Berea distinguished themselves by their eagerness to be searchers of the truth. "These were more fair-minded than those of Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). God tells us plainly that His revelation is for all of us. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which were revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). Whatever is in the Bible is no secret. It is placed there to instruct us on how we should live to please God and enjoy fulfilled lives. That does not mean that studying the Bible is not hard work. It can be difficult and exhausting. Ezra spent a life-time studying the Scriptures, not realizing that God would honor his diligence by using him as the spiritual leader of the Jews when they were released from Babylonian captivity. "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel: (Ezra 7:10). This reveals that studying the Scriptures takes a preparation of the heart. It also shows us that diligent study of the Word is necessary for us to do it and to teach it.