

# Study God's Word

## Lesson 2

### INTRODUCTION:

- With our Bibles closed, fill in the missing word in this Bible verse. (*Just in case someone knows it, we have changed the translation for this example to the ESV.*)
  - *Great are the works of the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ by all who delight in them.*
  - The reference is Psalm 111:2 & the missing word is “studied.”
  - Most would fill in the blank with something like: “loved, desired, remembered, celebrated, etc.”
- “Studied” is not the verb that most would expect. In fact, most of us do not have fond memories of studying – it was something we did not look forward to doing.
- Paul addresses the same topic on 2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved...”
  - The picture Paul uses in this verse is of the surgeon carefully cutting and dissecting during a surgical procedure.
- We have a biblical responsibility to study the Word of God. So, when was the last time you sat down and studied your Bible? That is our topic for today.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Study from your love
  - a. This point is simple because we know it is true: We study what we love.
  - b. ILL: Share a hobby from your childhood that you spent hours of time investing in. The amazing thing was that no one made you do it! You did it because you loved it!
  - c. ILL: If married, you intently studied your spouse as you were falling in love. You knew everything about them! Why? Because you were falling in love!
  - d. If we are so careful to study and accurately represent our hobbies and our spouse, why would we ever be lackadaisical in how we talk about our Creator?
2. Study with your mind.
  - a. Read Matthew 22:36-37.
  - b. How often have you heard a teacher or preacher emphasize “will all your mind” that we read in this verse? We talk about loving God with all our heart and soul, but rarely discuss the mind.
  - c. A major part of loving God is loving Him with our minds. In fact, you can’t carry out what your mind cannot comprehend! You will have a difficult time loving God with all your heart when you have a limited understanding of Who He is.
  - d. In Acts 17, Paul and Silas have fled persecution in Thessalonica and have arrived in Berea, a city in northern Greece. How does the audience respond to their teaching?
    - i. Read Acts 17:11.
    - ii. They didn’t just mindlessly listen; they checked what they were hearing against the Hebrew Scriptures.
    - iii. Notice that Luke (the author) commends them for this!
  - e. The Bereans were loving God with their minds. They were willing to pause and slow down in order to study.
  - f. How are you doing in this department? Do you approach your Bible with an alert mind? Are you prepared to read slowly, carefully and to study seriously?
3. Study to worship.

- a. Romans 9-11 are three of the weightiest chapters in the entire Bible. They are the deep end of the theological pool.
- b. Read Romans 11:33, 36 to see how Paul concludes this section.
- c. The doctrine of Romans 9-11 moved Paul to erupt in worship. Doctrine drove him to delight!
- d. What's the point? We study God to praise God. We cannot praise what we do not know.
- e. In many places, people declare that doctrine is dry and will kill good worship, etc. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The purpose of theology (which is learned by studying) is to stoke your worship, to deepen your love, to fuel your mission and to sustain your life.
- f. If your study of God's Word is dry – you're not doing it right!

#### CONCLUSION:

- If you have an opinion about God, you are a theologian. That's all it takes. The question is not if you are a theologian, but what kind of theologian you will be.
- Do you want deeper worship? Richer joy? Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow? Then approach your Bible with a learner's posture, ready to study.

APPLICATION: Pick a passage of Scripture and walk through the helpful acrostic below (H.E.A.R) to teach them a proper way to study God's Word.

- Begin with "H" which stands for HIGHLIGHT. This is the easy part: Pick a passage to study. The main warning is to pick a unit of Scripture (paragraph, complete sentence, etc.) and not just a phrase or verse. Work to keep it in complete context.
- Then we move to "E" for EXPLAIN. Write out what the passage means. Include its context. Try to determine the author's original message to the original audience.
- "A" stands for APPLY. This is when we begin to bridge the gap from the times of the original audience to our current day. Answer this question: If the author were writing to my church, what would he be saying?
- "R" stands for RESPOND. Before you wrap up your study, determine one specific thing you can do that day to respond to this text and what it is teaching.