

STORE: An Eternal Investment Strategy

Lesson for Sunday, April 5, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ CLOSER...review (Communication; Learn; Obey; Store)
- ⇒ What if I could give you an investment strategy that would guarantee you a huge financial gain? Would you do it? Of course you would!
- ⇒ I'm not qualified to give you financial advice, but I can provide you an eternal investment strategy that will bring you joy, spiritual strength, and a host of other blessings! Will you do it?
- ⇒ What is that investment? Scripture memory and meditation.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The **Call** to Store God's Word (Psalm 119:11)
 - a. The key word in this familiar verse is "hid." It means "to store, to hide or to treasure."
 - b. Emphasize that "store" is not mere mental recall (that's part of it) but treasuring, banking, and internalizing Scripture for ready use.
 - c. Storing the Word is **commanded**, not optional, for disciples.
 - d. What we store in our hearts now yields a return both in this life and in the life to come.
 - e. Most people will use the excuse that they can't memorize Scripture. But most of us already memorize what we love (songs, scores, stories).
 - f. The issue is **affection**, not ability.
2. The **Blessing** of Storing God's Word
 - a. Why is storing God's Word considered an eternal investment? What are the blessings we can expect when we discipline ourselves for this habit?
 - b. TIP: Break the class into groups to look up the verses and report back to the class the benefits they discover.
 - c. Protection from **sin**
 - i. Psalm 119:11; Psalm 37:31; Galatians 5:16.
 - ii. Internalized truth becomes the Spirit's ready sword when temptation comes (see Ephesians 6:17).
 - d. **Stability** and fruitfulness
 - i. Psalm 1:1-3 – the tree planted by streams of water.
 - ii. A mind saturated with Scripture remains stable in seasons of drought, suffering, or confusion.
 - e. **Success** in God's eyes
 - i. Joshua 1:8 – meditating "day and night" leads to prospering in God's purposes.
 - ii. Define "success" as faithfulness and conformity to Christ, not worldly advancement.
 - f. **Direction** and discernment
 - i. Psalm 119:105 – "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
 - ii. When the Word is stored, guidance often comes not as a new voice but as remembered Scripture.
 - g. **Growth** and edification
 - i. Acts 20:32 – the Word "builds you up" and gives an inheritance among the saints.
 - ii. Spiritual maturity is impossible apart from long-term intake and retention of Scripture.
 - h. **Readiness** for ministry and discipleship
 - i. 1 Peter 3:15 – "always being prepared to make a defense."

- ii. Stored Scripture equips you to counsel, encourage, and disciple others “in the moment.”
 - i. **Christlikeness**
 - i. Matthew 4:1–11 (temptation in the wilderness)
 - ii. Jesus did not argue with Satan based on opinion but on the basis of Scripture. He had internalized specific texts that directly addressed each temptation (provision, protection, power).
 - iii. Being a disciple means learning to respond as Jesus responded: Scripture first.
- 3. The **Excuses** Against Storing
 - a. Since internalizing Scripture is so rare among Christians, it is only natural that there have been many excuses offered to explain the neglect.
 - b. “I have a bad memory.”
 - i. You remember what you repeatedly rehearse and what matters to you (phone numbers, passwords, lyrics, sports stats).
 - ii. Memory is a **muscle**; it grows with use.
 - c. “I don’t have time.”
 - i. Show how you can redeem idle moments (commute, treadmill, waiting rooms, dishes).
 - ii. Storing Scripture is not adding one more task but **repurposing** scattered minutes.
 - d. “I read my Bible; that’s enough.”
 - i. Reading exposes you to the Word; storing enables the Word to guide you when the Bible isn’t open.
 - ii. Reading is like a meal; memorizing is like stocking the **pantry**.
- 4. A Simple Process for Storing Scripture
 - a. Here is an easy to reproduce plan our people can use to begin storing God’s Word.
 - b. **Picture** it: Use mental imagery, story or setting to make the verse memorable.
 - c. **Ponder** it: Turn the verse over in your mind phrase by phrase. Ask basic questions: Who is speaking? What is promised? What is commanded? What does this reveal about God?
 - d. **Personalize** it: Turn the verse into a personal promise, confession or prayer. Insert your name or “I” appropriately, while staying faithful to the text’s meaning.
 - e. **Pray** over it: Pray the verse back to God, asking Him to make it true in your life.

APPLICATION: Lead the group through one “live” example:

1. Choose a key verse for the session (e.g., Psalm 119:11 or Joshua 1:8).
2. Walk through:
 - Everyone writes it out by hand.
 - Practice “picture it, ponder it, personalize it, pray it” together.
 - See if any volunteers can already quote it by the end of the class.
3. Assign: This verse as the “memory verse of the week.”