

Bethel Baptist Church
Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bible Study and Discussion Group
Handout #5 – Chapters 9 & 10
February 28, 2024



Scripture: James 1:21-25

Meditation: “Scripture” from Day 2 “The Basics of the Christian Life” (You Version Bible App)

Prayer:

Encounters with God: Transforming Your Bible Study

By Henry, Melvin, and Norman Blackaby

Chapter 9 -- Questions For Personal Application

*“Therefore whoever hears these saying of Mine, and does them,
I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:
and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and
beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”
Matthew 7:24, 25*

Intro.

- The most important step in Bible study is _____.
- You cannot apply what you _____.
- You can know the truth of God’s Word and still _____ not to _____ it.
- Life _____ comes when we _____ to the God of the universe and _____ to our lives.

Questions to aide in Bible Study – Personal Application:

- **Question #1 – What did God say to me today?**
 - Take seriously what you have learned through your Bible study.
 - What do we mean when we say God speaks?
 - The primary way God speaks is through the Bible.
 - The Holy Spirit will take God’s Words and bring them to life, fill them with meaning, impress them upon your heart, and make a direct application to your life.
 - If God chooses to impress upon you a significant truth, write it down and meditate on it.
 - Every time God shows you something in His Word, take time to meditate on it. He is preparing you for what He is about to do.

- **Question #2 – What is the general principle for all believers?**
 - There are general principles given to all who are in a covenant relationship with God.
 - They show us how to live a good life in right standing with God and one another.
 - When applied to our lives, we will experience life as God intended.
 - The example of “forgiveness” -- Matthew 6:14,15
 - Whether we live by the principles in the Bible or not, God does. We experience abundant life when we understand those principles and apply them to our lives.

- **Question #3 – What is the specific application to my life?**
 - It is one thing to understand general principles that God has given us; it is another thing to specifically apply them in real-life situations.
 - God gives us more than general principles to follow; He shows us where and when to apply them.
 - Once you learn the truth, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to do about it. Ask Him to work it into your life and make it real.
 - Four areas the Holy Spirit will apply truth:
 - Your _____
 - Your _____
 - Your _____
 - Your _____
 - All four areas must be considered when applying the Bible to your life.

- **Question #4 – Am I going to do it?**
 - Until now, everything has all been talk and good intentions.
 - You need to do what God has said in His Word.
 - You know what to do; you just need to do it.
 - Obeying God and following His Word will inevitably mean humbling yourself, denying yourself, and making costly sacrifices.
 - This is the moment that reveals your relationship with Christ...No matter what we say, our obedience reveals our love for God. When we respond to God out of a love relationship, His commands are no longer a burden.
 - When you have heard God and clearly know what is required of your life, do it. Don't hesitate, but trust that God knows best and you can trust Him.

- **Question #5 – Who will hold me accountable?**
 - Once you know what God has said and you are committed to obey, you may need to share it with somebody else.
 - Satan desires to weaken us through isolation; God desires to strengthen us through interdependence.
 - Your walk with God is personal, but not private. God intends that you live your life among the family of God. (see Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - When it comes to sharing with others what God has said in your time of Bible study, you need to pray and ask His guidance.
 - There are times that God intends that you process a truth alone with Him...
 - There are times when He wants you to share with other people who will both encourage and challenge you.
 - He may bring along a mature believer who can help you understand and apply the truth to your life.
 - Allow others to be involved in your life: allow others to hold you accountable to that you know the Lord has said to you.

Chapter 10 – Encountering Truth

Then Jesus said..., “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
John 8:31, 32

I. Truth Is Personal

- The world promotes a philosophy that cannot accept absolute truth; everything is relative.
- That is the product of human reasoning, not biblical revelation.
- The Bible declares what is right to God and, therefore, what is right for us.
- Truth in the Bible is not a concept but a person, Jesus.
- Never determine truth without first consulting Jesus, for circumstances do not control your life, He does. That’s why consistent study of God’s Word is so important in our lives: it is through His Word that the Lord guides us.

II. Truth Is Relational

- It is helpful to know that the Lord is more interested in your relationship than your circumstances.
- He may alter your circumstances in order to enhance your relationship.
- Those who don’t know Jesus cannot know absolute truth. Those who are Christians have access to heavenly wisdom through their relationship with Christ. He will often take you through challenging circumstances in order to show you truth about Himself.
- When you open the Bible, consider your time with God from His perspective...Always keep in mind that His greatest desire is that you know Him. He will lead you from that perspective, guiding you into a deeper relationship with Himself. It is in that relationship that you will know truth, and truth will set you free.

III. Truth Is Freedom

- As you are confronted with truth in the Bible, you are confronted with Christ’s right to be Lord.
- He desires to set you free from sin and bring you into abundant life in Him (John 10:10). That freedom come when you die to self and allow Him to live in you.

- The Bible is the primary means for experiencing God in your life. Every time you confront God in the Bible, He will be moving you toward this end. (see discussion of John 8:32-36)
- The great need of all people is freedom from sin and its deadening effect upon our spirit.
- Jesus want to release us from that which will hold us back and rob us of abundant life in Him. Bible study, therefore, is a significant lifelong pursuit. It is a light to our path that brings us into a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In that relationship, He will guide you through life and into eternity with Him.

Questions/Comments:

Notes:

Concluding Remarks

Closing Prayer