

"Study is Important"

John 17:9-11

- We'll begin a discussion about Bible study today
- We'll ask, among other things...

- Why is it important that we study scripture?
- What does Jesus say scripture does for us?
- How can scripture make a difference in our daily thoughts and actions?

- On this program and on this station, you'll know we spend many hours on study
- It is a primary feature of our spoken word programs and its results wind up in every song we play
- We obviously think it's important
- We obviously believe it does something for us
- And we assert, without hesitation, that it changes our daily thoughts and actions

- Some of our reasoning behind that today
- As our topic will be "Study is Important"
- We'll begin in John 17...

- If you know anything about the 17th chapter of John
- You'll know that in it, Jesus prays for His disciples
- He confirms their future persecution
- He tells us why it will happen
- And He reminds us how they will be strengthened and fortified through it

- Now, this is not just for the disciples of His day
- It is for us as well
- What must we do to be sanctified for whatever the future holds?
- Let's begin to find out in verse 9...

John 17:9-11

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

- Those of us who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ alone, belong to God
- And we have been given the ability to glorify God by reflecting His attributes
- At this time when Jesus would die, be buried, raise from the dead, then return to His father
- He asks God to keep His disciples (those of His day, and us), giving us unity

- But clearly, based on what we know about the original 12, and ourselves
- Growth and change and development and strengthening would need to take place
- That is emphasized as Jesus goes on...

John 17:12-14

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

- While Jesus was with His disciples, He taught them
- He gave them God's word
- And while they were hated, being foreigners on the earth
- They were being equipped
- Because this hatred would lead to violent action against them

- Here's what Jesus goes on to say about it...

John 17:15-17

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- His prayer is not that they be removed
- As citizens of God's kingdom, they would leave soon enough
- But His prayer is that they would be sanctified
- And that sanctification would come through God's word

- To be sanctified is to be set apart from profane things and dedicated to God
- It is to be cleansed and consecrated for His exclusive service
- And God has provided truth to do this work - the scriptures

- Because those who know Christ have a job to do
- A mission to carry out
- A service to render
- And we are in need of equipping

- Jesus goes on...

John 17:18-21

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

- Jesus will command all who believe in Him to "go" and "preach"
- And He has lived (and will soon die) having done exactly what God commanded
- Having lived according to the truth
- And His disciples must obey and follow His example
- Because the message of redemption, which He is about to complete for the world
- Must be spread far and wide
- And it can only be spread by "set apart" servants

- This is why the scripture - and the study of it - becomes so important to us
- Because to grow into His likeness, we have only one tool that works in conjunction with God's Holy Spirit (the One who dwells in us)
- And that is the Bible
- He uses its truth within us to transform our every thought and action

- We find ourselves going back to Old Testament passages like Psalm 19 as a reminder
- It says...

Psalm 19:7-11

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

- We are not keepers of Old Testament law in this new covenant
- But we are lovers of all God said and students who "rightly divide" the word of truth
- Meditating upon it, studying it, learning from its people (God's people, Israel), and finding in it examples
- It is a lamp to light life's often very dark path
- And a guidebook for a treacherous journey

- This was the case for those early disciples and for us
- Study is important
- Let's remind ourselves what the Bible is...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

- It comes directly from God
- Therefore it deserves deep consideration

- For when we deeply consider it, it provides for us a doctrinal foundation
- It will reprove us
- Direct us back to the right path
- And gives us an ongoing series of internal tools (aided by the Holy Spirit)
- To think and act and live righteously
- So that we can be completely who God intends for us to be
- And so that we can carry our His assigned mission for us
- Study is important
- I'll leave you with the words Paul gave Timothy in the verses immediately preceding...

2 Timothy 3:14-15

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- Continue in God's word - that means to "abide" in it
- Learn and keep learning
- Surround yourself with those who would assure you
- Because the holy scriptures can not only make us wise unto salvation
- But they can enlighten us to the implications of that salvation
- Which will mean vigorous and effective ministry
- That will be used by God to provide eternal transformation to others

Christopher Harper, Take Note 2022