

Daily Family Bible Studies

TEXT: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” (Psa. 1:1-3)

THESIS: Daily studying of God’s Word is essential to every life of mankind.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Vitamin pills which was once intended as a supplement, is almost becoming the total source of our nutrition.
2. In spiritual matters, I pray that we are not depending solely upon congregational activities for our nourishment when it comes to our association with the Bible and the study of it.
 - a. If we study the Bible at all outside the church building, I hope that it is more than studying our lesson for a class that is at the church building.
 - b. If the time we spend preparing for and attending Bible classes at church were subtracted from our weekly schedules, would there be any significant Bible study left?
 - c. If what we have picked up from sermons and Bible classes were deleted from our minds, would there be any Bible knowledge left in us?
 - i. If so, what knowledge can we say that our children have outside of these two things?
3. Whatever the congregation is able to offer to supplement our own study of the Bible is a wonderful blessing not to be despised and we need to be taking fuller advantage of these opportunities such as on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.
4. But, do we suppose that when we have studied our lesson for Sunday morning or Wednesday night that we have done all that is needed for our families to be spiritually strong?
 - a. Joshua penned, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Josh. 1:8-9)
5. Can anyone question that we need to be studying God’s word as families and doing so daily?
6. It is this area of our lives that further attention is needed, for:
 - a. God has always wanted his word studied and talked about in the home.
 - b. This is partly accomplished by regular daily family Bible studies.

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD HAS ALWAYS WANTED HIS WORD STUDIED AND TALKED ABOUT IN THE HOME

- A. Moses wrote concerning Abraham saying, “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” (Gen. 18:19)
1. One of the greatest reasons why God chose Abraham was because he knew that Abraham would be able to influence future generations of his offspring.
 2. He would teach others when few men acknowledged God, when they were in spiritual darkness.
 3. And, Abraham was the one, thankfully, who had the power to perpetuate the name and worship of Almighty God to others, even through great difficulties.
- B. Parents in Israel were also to teach their children what God had said
1. Open you Old Covenants to Deut. 4:5-10: “Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.”
- C. The things of God were to be talked about not just at special religious times, but during the ordinary activities of daily living in the home.
1. “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deut. 6:6-9)
- D. Children are to be trained, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (prov. 22:6)
1. Now, while this is not talking about religion, it can still be somewhat

- applied.
2. For what good is it, when our children go off to school for 6 hours a day learning about science, math, english, history, evolution, athiesm, homosexuality, sexual education and then coming home and being made to study these subjects for a few hours every night, while at the same time, ignoring the Bible all together or only spending 10 minutes out of our 1,440 minute day?
 3. Do we ever wonder why children dislike church, why some feel that there are not enough activities, why teens and young adults rarely attend and why some older adults do not come at all and when years later, when they do study the word of God, they take most things out of context?
 4. The Hebrew writer mentioned, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” (Heb. 5:12)
- E. Abraham, the parents of Old, and many others have deemed it necessary to study and talk about his word on numerous occasions, regularly at home.
- F. Thus, we are to be nurturing our family in the Lord while we have the opportunity.
1. In fact, “. . . ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)
 2. How can we do this?
 3. How would Abraham nurture his family in the Lord or how would the Israelites diligently teach in the house, teach while walking, while lying down in the evening, and while rising up in the morning if they never studied?
 4. We must make certain that the Bible is most important in the home.

II. THIS IS PARTLY ACCOMPLISHED BY REGULAR DAILY FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

- A. The study of learning God’s word is too important to be left to chance or to hit or miss.
1. Often times we correct our children by telling them to do their homework for school so they will get a good job.
 2. But, what about doing their study work for the Lord so they will, Lord willing, enter into Heaven one day?
 3. How much more important is it for a job to take precedent over the heavenly?
- B. We need to engage in regular daily periods of family Bible study.
1. Otherwise, how can our children be taught to work out their own salvation with trembling and fear (Phil. 2:12)?
 2. Is the salvation of our souls and our eternal salvation dependant on what we do and do not know about God’s word?
 3. Have we forgotten that God no longer winks at our ignorance (Acts

17:30)?

4. Yet, in most families, two questions immediately arise when considering studying the Bible at home.

C. First, when can we do it?

1. As to the time for family study, most of it may be at breakfast, supper or before bedtime or even at all times.
2. Moses taught the children of Israel to study as many times as possible because the Word of God was to be memorized . . . all of it and put in our hearts (Deut 6).
 - a. Alas, most families are busy, but there is no greater priority than our spiritual needs.
 - b. And, if the children need to stay up an extra 15 minutes after bedtime to study God's Word, then so be it!
 - c. We must educate ourselves and our children.
3. But, if we have to admit that we are so busy about the things of this world that there is not any feasible time that the family can study God's word together on a daily basis, is that not some kind of danger signal?
 - a. We need to provide more than food, clothes and shelter to our families . . . WE NEED TO STUDY GOD'S WORD!
 - b. Else, how can we be as the psalmist which said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11)?

D. Second, what can we use as a study guide?

1. Study guides can serve as a basis for our study which there are a number of good materials and helps available.
 - a. But, when dealing with materials, remember that even though it is put out by the church, this does not indicate that it is sound and scriptural.
 - b. On the back table, there is information where you can order good materials.
 - c. This is so important because Peter warned us that there will (not an option), ". . . there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Pet. 2:1-2).
 - d. We must be careful.
2. Now, there is so much material out there because no two families are alike and any material done by others will have to be adapted and used with discretion so that those who are 9 and those who are 13 are learning and still being challenged.
 - a. Again on the back table, there are color coded kid cards that can help us teach children not only things in the Bible, but also where it is located.

- b. Try learning just five off a card a night and then add two each night and before long, they will have the 29 or so memorized.
 - 3. Yet, this study at home, is best when the head of the household organizes it to his own method of teaching the Bible with his family.
 - a. For the Bible says, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)
 - b. Likewise, the mother has a role in bringing up her children which is considered a good work to God (1 Tim. 5:10).
 - 4. And while women have the responsibility for the spiritual training of the children, husbands, what does the Bible say about us if we know our way around the Bible so little that we are incapable of opening its pages at the breakfast table and imparting something from its text that is suited to the needs of our own family?
 - a. It says, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” (Heb. 5:12)
 - b. Sometimes we lose our way toward godliness. But, it is never too late to pick it up again and start learning from the beginning.
 - 5. Why do we think we study the Bible in the first place, if it is not to be able to bring specific passages to bear on specific needs that arise in daily living, especially with regard to our families?
 - a. This is why we study to show ourselves approved and not ashamed because we are unable to rightly divide the Word of God. (2 Tim. 2:15)
- E. We need to keep working or start working out the mechanics of our daily family Bible studies and not neglect the teaching of God’s word in our homes.
 - 1. We must not be those who hide the truth about God from our loved ones.
 - 2. Notice Psa. 78:1-8, “Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.”

CONCLUSION:

1. The spiritual strength of our families should not depend on whether the congregation has a good teaching program.
2. A brief devotional or family Bible study each day would seem to be the minimum daily requirement for the learning of God's word in the home.
 - a. Much needs to be done beyond that!
3. If our children learn God's word at all, will they later be able to remember that it was from their family that they learned it?
 - a. Paul told young Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 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." (2 Tim. 3:14-15)
 - b. For, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (2 Tim. 1:5)
4. There is much material that can be used to teach children.
 - a. The Bible, sound bible study books, colored cards or even making our own.
 - b. But, whether we have children at home or not, we need to be making sure that our homes place the emphasis on studying the word of God each and every day.
5. Before it is too late, let us resolve to build this into our lives so that we will build our lives around the Bible and the promise of eternal life with God.