

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Bible Study

SERMON REFERENCE: 2 Timothy 2:15

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1828

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) As we study the Bible, we learn solid truths that we can stand on.
 - i) Our lives are transformed, not by resolution or emotion or determination, but by the truth of God's Word.
- b) As believers in Jesus Christ, we need to learn some factors of faithfulness that will help us stand strong to be a good Christian at home, a good church member, and a solid citizen in this world.
- c) The number one factor of faithfulness is Bible study.
- d) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - i) This is God's command to us through Paul and Timothy.
 - ii) We're to study to show ourselves approved unto God.
- e) John 17:17
 - i) Do you want to live a holy life?
 - ii) Do you want to be sanctified?
 - iii) Do you want to be powerful in the Lord?
 - iv) Do you want to stop riding a spiritual rollercoaster?
 - v) Then, learn to be faithful in Bible study.
- f) Today's message will share four things that will help us to know, understand, and live by the Word of God.

2) RECEIVE THE SAVING AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE

- a) God is the author of the Bible.
- b) In order to understand the Bible, then we must receive the author of the Bible into our hearts.
 - i) Without Jesus Christ, we are spiritually blind.
- c) 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - i) If you've only been born once, then you are a natural man born into the natural world and are blind to the spiritual world.
 - (1) You will never truly understand the Bible until you are born again.
- d) 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - i) Satan is the god of this world, and he has blinded the minds of those who believe not.
 - ii) Without Jesus Christ, the author of the Bible, you will never understand the Bible.
- e) The Bible is God's love letter to His children.
 - i) In order to understand the Bible, you must know the God of the Bible.
- f) An unsaved person can read the Bible and appreciate it as beautiful literature.
 - i) He might learn the history of the Bible.
 - ii) He might even agree with the moral precepts of the Bible.
 - iii) But he will never know the deep meaning of God's Word until he is born again.
- g) Nicodemus came to Jesus by night.

- i) Nicodemus was a brilliant man, but he couldn't understand because he had not been born again.
 - ii) John 3:3
 - h) If you want to understand the Bible, first of all, invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart.
 - i) Receive the saving author of the Bible.
 - i) Once Christ is in your heart, then begin to pray.
 - i) Never come to Bible study without praying.
 - j) Once we are saved and we lay our intellectual pride in the dust and pray over God's Word, three things will happen:
 - i) Our eyes will be opened.
 - (1) Psalm 119:12
 - (a) "Teach me thy statutes."
 - (i) When we pray this, God begins to teach us.
 - (2) Psalm 119:18
 - (a) God will help us to see things that we've never seen before.
 - ii) Our heart will be stirred.
 - (1) Psalm 119:36
 - (a) God opens our eyes, and He inclines our heart.
 - (2) We must see, and then our heart must be moved.
 - iii) Our mind will be enlightened.
 - (1) Psalm 119:73
 - (2) God gives us a new mind.
 - k) When we study the Bible, we need to always pray, "Lord, open my eyes, stir my heart, and quicken my mind."
 - i) It is unthinkable to sit down for a serious study of the Word of God without asking the author of the Word to teach us.
- 3) RECOGNIZE THE SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE
- a) Once we know the author, then we must believe the authority of the Word of God.
 - i) The Bible will never be a real book to us if we don't accept it as the sovereign authority of Almighty God.
 - b) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - i) The word "inspiration" that's used here is used only this one time in the Bible.
 - (1) It literally means, "It is God-breathed."
 - ii) All Scripture is God-breathed and is given by inspiration of God.
 - (1) It doesn't mean that God breathed into the Scriptures, but that God breathed the Scriptures themselves.
 - c) All Scripture is the breath of God.
 - i) When we read the Bible, we hear God speak.
 - d) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.
 - i) 2 Timothy 3:16 says all, not some.

- ii) This is why we believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible.
 - (1) “Verbal” means “every word.”
 - (2) “Plenary” means “full.”
 - (3) This means that all of the Bible is fully inspired.
 - (a) There is no part of it that is not inspired.
 - iii) 3, 808 times in the Bible, we read phrases such as:
 - (1) “The word of God came to me.”
 - (2) “The Lord said.”
 - (3) “God spake.”
 - (4) “Thus saith the Lord.”
 - iv) The Bible is the Word of God.
 - e) Matthew 4:4
 - i) The Word proceeds out of the mouth of God.
 - f) The Bible was written down by people, but they wrote it by divine inspiration.
 - i) God Himself inspired the penmen.
 - ii) Parts of the Bible sound different because God used different people.
 - (1) Just like in an orchestra we have different instruments.
 - (2) There is one author who used all of those men as instruments in His hand.
 - iii) It was not mechanical dictation.
 - (1) God used the fears, the desires, the aspirations and the experiences of all of those men.
 - (2) But over it all and through it all is divine inspiration.
 - g) Our view of the Scripture must be the view that Jesus had.
 - i) John 10:35
 - (1) Scripture cannot be broken.
 - h) Accept the absolute authority of the Bible.
 - i) Love the Word of God.
 - i) The Bible, interpreted by the Holy Spirit, is the final authority.
 - i) Not human reason nor your conscience.
 - (1) Conscience is like a sundial.
 - (a) It operates according to the light that’s shone on it.
 - (2) Your conscience can’t be your guide unless God guides your conscience.
 - ii) It’s not tradition or emotion, but the Word of God.
- 4) RESOLVE A SERIOUS ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLE
- a) It’s not enough to say that God is the author of the Bible.
 - b) It’s not enough to say that the Bible is absolutely authoritative.
 - c) We must learn to study and analyze the Bible.
 - d) 1 Timothy 4:13
 - e) 2 Timothy 2:15

- i) The word “study” is translated as “give diligence,” “earnestly endeavor,” “do your best,” “try hard,” “let it be your care,” “aim first.”
- ii) We must have a burning desire for the Word of God.
- f) Psalm 119:72
 - i) Do you really want to know the Bible?
 - ii) Would you rather know the truth of God’s Word or be financially wealthy?
- g) If we truly believe that the Bible is the Word of God, then we will have a desire to understand it.
- h) So often, we say that we know the author of the Bible, that we believe the authority of the Bible, but we make no analysis of the Bible.
 - i) We must open the Bible and study it.
 - ii) If you’re looking for a cheap way, an easy way, or a lazy way to understand the Bible, then you’re not going to understand it.
- i) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - i) The word “rightly divide” literally means “to cut straight” the Word of truth.
 - (1) This comes from a practice in the Old Testament.
 - (a) Unless it was the whole burnt offering, an offering would be brought to the Lord and divided.
 - (b) The priest would divide the offering into thirds.
 - (i) One-third would be offered to God, one-third would be given back to the person who brought the offering, and one-third would be given to the priest.
 - (c) The priest would rightly divide the offering so that everyone would get that part that belonged to him.
- j) To rightly divide the Word of God, we don’t bring our ignorance to the Word, but we study the Bible.
 - i) All of the Bible is for us, but not all of it is to us.
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 10:32
 - (a) Everyone in the world is divided up into these three categories:
 - (i) The Jews
 - (ii) The Gentiles
 - (iii) The church of God
 - (2) As we begin to read the Bible, we need to understand whether that passage is written to the Jews or to the Gentiles or to the church.
 - (a) For example, sometimes people take the promises that belong to Israel in the Old Testament and try to apply them to the church.
 - (i) As an example, the Old Testament Sabbath (Saturday) was given to Israel, not to the church.
 - (3) This does not mean that we’re not supposed to understand or read those passages.
 - (a) There are lessons there that we can learn, rightly understood, that will apply to us.
 - ii) We have to understand how to rightly divide the Word of truth.

- k) There are three things that will help us analyze the Bible:
 - i) Context
 - (1) Read it in context.
 - (a) Don't just throw it open and begin to read, and then claim that it doesn't make sense.
 - (i) If we read any book that way, it wouldn't make sense to us.
 - (b) The Bible was written systematically.
 - (c) We can make the Bible say anything if we take a verse or part of a verse out of its context, which then becomes pretext.
 - (2) Common sense
 - (a) When we read the Bible, we shouldn't check our brains at the door.
 - (b) Read poetry as poetry, read prose as prose.
 - (c) Read prophecy as prophecy, promise as promise, parable as parable, and precept as precept.
 - (d) The Bible sometimes uses metaphors and symbolism.
 - (e) Take the Bible literally and symbolically.
 - (i) Taking the Bible literally doesn't do away with symbolism.
 - 1. For instance, in the book of the Revelation, Satan is described as a red dragon with a tail that sweeps a third of the stars from Heaven.
 - a. Revelation 12:3-4
 - 2. This is obviously symbolism; that's not literally what Satan is, but it's what he is like.
 - a. There is a literal devil.
 - (ii) Symbolism doesn't do away with a literal interpretation.
 - (iii) Find out what the symbol stands for, and literally believe it.
 - (3) Concentration
 - (a) When looking at a passage of Scripture:
 - (i) Read it through.
 - (ii) Think it clear.
 - (iii) Write it down.
 - (iv) Pray it in.
 - (v) Live it out.
 - (vi) Pass it on.
 - (b) If we don't do the above steps, how do we expect to understand the Bible?
- l) There must be a serious analysis of the Word of God in its context, using common sense and concentration with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

5) RESPOND WITH A STEADFAST APPLICATION OF THE BIBLE

- a) If we read and study the Bible but don't apply it, then it will backfire on us.
 - i) Inspiration apart from obedience will cause the Word of God to sour on us.
 - ii) We must put the Word of God into practice.

- b) John 14:21
 - i) To have His commandments means to study, to receive them.
 - ii) To keep His commandments means to obey them.
 - iii) We cannot sing “Oh, How I Love Jesus” if we are not receiving and keeping His commandments.
 - iv) If we want to be loved by God the Father, then we have to love God the Son.
 - v) To love God the Son is to hear His commandments and keep them.
 - vi) “I will manifest myself to him.”
 - (1) Is Jesus Christ real to you?
 - (2) Bible study gives us knowledge about God.
 - (3) Obedience gives us knowledge of God.
 - (4) We can study the Bible and learn about God, or we can obey the Bible and know God.
- c) Appropriate and act on the truths of God’s Word, and the Bible will become real to you.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Have you received the author of the Bible into your heart?
 - i) If not, then you may today.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16