

THE VALUE OF BIBLE STUDY TO THE INDIVIDUAL

Chance Hicks

Paul instructed Timothy regarding studying the word of God: *"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine"* (1 Timothy 4:13), *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"* (1 Timothy 4:16), *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). Paul was trying to impress upon Timothy the value of individual Bible study. Studying the Bible in a group setting, such as a Bible class, or studying along with the preacher, is important to the growth and development of every child of God. Individual Bible study on a daily basis is just as important because the Word of God is our spiritual food whereby we grow and develop (cf. 1 Peter 2:2). If we fail in feeding ourselves daily, then our spiritual health is in great jeopardy just as our physical health would be

were we to go without food on a regular basis.

The Problem: In writing to the church at Ephesus, Paul explains why it is so important that individuals engage in Bible study on a daily basis. He wrote, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:10-12). We are in the midst of a spiritual battle, constantly being attacked by Satan and his forces. If we are going to succeed in this battle and not be defeated by our enemy, then we must be constantly preparing ourselves. Can you imagine an army going into battle without making all the preparations they could to defeat the enemy? Yet, everyday Christians are trying to fight against the devil

and his devices without opening the word of God to study and prepare for the battle ahead. If we would view everyday as a battle against spiritual wickedness in high places, it would help us to open the word of God and study more to be prepared for battle that we might emerge victorious.

The Plan: Paul gave the church at Ephesus the plan they needed to follow to overcome the problem of spiritual wickedness wrestling against them, *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"* (Ephesians 6:13-17).

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Editorial

The Value of Good Godly Material in Christian Homes

Ronnie Hayes

I was fortunate while growing up to have Bible publications and study resources around the house. Material written by Guy N. Woods, Gus Nichols, Bobby Duncan, and other faithful preachers and teachers was always near. Articles about doctrine, Christian living, worship, and the Church were right at our finger tips. Good Godly material was beneficial in our home while growing up, and the benefits continue today. This article has a twofold purpose: (1) to emphasize the need for good study material and (2) to recommend a new series of class books being released.

Good material has always stimulated students in their studies. If I knew nothing about Brother Camp, these quotes would peak my interest in studying the Book of Matthew:

“We begin the study of the greatest sermon that has ever been preached. This sermon becomes the basis of the preaching that’s found in the book of Acts. The basis of the preaching that the apostles did when they went out into the great commission and we need to take some time to study this sermon carefully”.

“I’d like for us to think about that the things, the attitudes and the principles that are set forth in the Sermon on the Mount is giving us a picture of the inside of a man or the person that has believed and repented and been baptized in the book of Acts. If you want to find out what one is to be like, the principles are given in this Sermon on the Mount. We have taught, rightly so, that one must be a citizen in the kingdom that started Pentecost in order to be

saved. But not only must one be a citizen in the kingdom, he must be a particular kind of person that is a citizen.”

“That’s the reason that I told you when we started this book. This book will upset you. If you are in earnest about going to heaven it’ll upset you. It won’t let you just go along from day to day and be the same. It’ll dig around the root of where we live. It’ll make us look on the inside and examine what we are like on the inside. It’ll make us think about what we are. That’s what we’ve got to do. That’s what we need to do. That’s what we must do.”

The benefits of good material are limitless. Reading and studying good material will help us mature in God’s word. Paul told Timothy “to study or give diligence” in 2 Timothy 2:15. Peter said, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). Our familiarity with scripture is enhanced through Bible study. Peter uses an expression, “But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off...” (2 Peter 1:9). Today, blindness of scripture, typically speaks to one’s spiritual immaturity. Good material also challenges us to grow. I remember my first day of preaching school at Memphis School of Preaching. I thought, as many young preacher students do, I knew it all. It didn’t take long to realize just how little I really knew! I was overwhelmed with good material while in school and it helped build my foundation and stimulated spiritual growth. Good, scriptural material can do that.

Good material helps Christians to ascertain and to maintain the truth as well. Good writers help

“It’ll make us think about what we are. That’s what we’ve got to do. That’s what we need to do. That’s what we must do”. Franklin Camp

point us to the truth and help us see the validity of searching the scriptures for answers. Studying with good writers will guide us into areas of study that we might not have gone. Good material helps broaden our minds.

I have pointed out the necessity and benefits of good material, and now I would like to recommend a new series of material. Brother Franklin Camp’s material, *Redemption through the Bible*, is being bound into book form and formatted into a Bible class series. While the material is geared towards adults, it could be used for High School aged teens as well. It will be at least a five year series to study the complete Bible. Over a five year span Brother, Inc. will be producing this material, with one Old Testament book and one New Testament book released each quarter. We are very excited about the opportunity to produce this material and any profit that is gained from its sale will be used to put preacher students through faithful schools. Each book will be Brother Camp’s material condensed for spacing. That is why, especially for teachers, we suggest that you also get a set of Brother Camp’s CDs, so that you will have every word he spoke. It is our hope and prayer that this material will be a great benefit to Brothers and Sisters in Christ everywhere.

We are thankful to have Christian Family Bookstore to handle all of the material for us. If you would like more information, you can contact us or Christian Family Bookstore. To order, call Christian Family Bookstore at 1-800-782-8175.

THE DANGER OF NOT STUDYING THE BIBLE PROPERLY

James E. Rogers

A Gospel preacher related the story of preaching a funeral for a member of the congregation where he preached. He was given the member's Bible so that he might use, in the funeral service, something the member had put in the Bible more than sixty years previous. The preacher's statement to me was: "It was an unused Bible." I did not know the member nor am I judging the motives of the one mentioned, however, it may be that the problems facing us today stem from unused Bibles or Bibles not studied properly. As we contemplate the problem of improperly studied Bibles, consider some important consequences.

NO GROWTH: A failure to study the Bible properly means that proper growth does not occur. Peter tells us to "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). When the Christian fails to grow, he is susceptible to apostasy (Matthew 13:16-22), is a carrier of bad attitudes, and will engage in bad actions (Galatians 5:19-21). He becomes carnal (1 Corinthians 3) and creates problems in the church. Consider the congregations that have been disrupted as a result of members who had not properly studied their Bibles. How many programs of work are presently being hindered because of this? How many preachers, elders, and members have become discouraged because they have to suffer attacks from members whose failure to properly study the Bible has caused them to act immaturely?

LOST SOULS: A failure to study the Bible properly means that souls are lost. The Christian is to be an

evangelist (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4; 2 Timothy 2:2). One cannot teach that which he does not know. How many Christians will be lost because they refuse to carry out the great commission? Too many church members have the "we hired the preacher to do that" mentality. The Bible does not teach this, but they do not know this because they have not properly studied it.

Not only will the man who fails to properly study the Bible not teach the lost, he will not seek to restore the erring (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20). It is scary to think of the members of the church who never visit and seek to restore the erring members and are unwilling to do so, even when asked by the elders. Unfortunately, some elders are as bad as these members. In some congregations one may become spiritually weak and die while the elders meet and talk about who is missing the services! What a shame!

How many elders and members visit the preacher and his family to encourage and strengthen them? I have been preaching full-time for forty years and only one time has my family been visited by the elders (and I initiated the visit) to encourage and strengthen us. It is taken for granted that the preacher and his family are spiritually strong. How often do the elders visit the families of fellow-elders? These families struggle with difficulties as do the other families in the congregation. They need encouragement from their elders. This line of thought could continue through every group of people in the congregation. When a failure occurs in this area it often comes from improperly studied Bibles!

NO DISCERNMENT OF GOOD AND EVIL: A failure to properly study the Bible means that the difference between good and evil is not discerned (Hebrews 5:12-14). One has to use what he knows in order to avoid evil. One of the reasons so many church members drink alcoholic beverages, dance, gamble, wear immodest clothing, and engage in other acts of sin is because they do not know enough about the Bible to "abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). If one does not study for himself, he will never be able to "resist the devil" (James 5:7). The moral climate in our nation attests to the accuracy of this matter. From the White House, and throughout our nation, people do not know the difference between good and evil. Isaiah pronounced a warning that needs to be heeded in our day when he said: "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (5:20).

When the preacher told me the story of the unused Bible I was saddened. I then became angry when I thought about all the harm the Devil was doing to those of us who have been bought with "precious blood" (1 Peter 1:16, 17). I am also saddened by those who do not care enough to study the Bible and make application in their lives. Brethren, let us be motivated to learn all we can about God's Word and use it in our daily lives. If we do this, we will grow, souls will be saved and good and evil will be discerned. Study those Bibles!

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THE VALUE OF BIBLE STUDY TO THE LOST

Tim Hayes

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).

Paul stated that he was ready to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to Rome (Romans 1:15). Why was Paul desirous to preach the gospel of Christ? Because, Paul knew the power of the gospel. Paul knew that he had preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in many other cities and through obedience to the gospel many had been saved.

The question before us is: what is the value of Bible study to the lost? The word value is defined as: *worth; utility; importance; import; precise signification. To rate at a certain price; to estimate; to esteem; to prize; to regard.* The question might also be worded in this manner: what profit does one gain from Bible study?

Paul recorded the fact that the gospel of Jesus Christ is God's power unto salvation to everyone that believeth. The word "gospel" could be translated the *good message*. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good message of Jesus Christ, that salvation can be enjoyed through Christ. *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).*

Later in the book of Romans, Paul recorded these words: *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).* The words translated "believeth" in Romans 1 and "faith" in Romans 10 are basically the same words. This is also the same word spoken of throughout Hebrews 11. This faith is far more than a mental assent because each time it is used in

Hebrews 11 it speaks of action. Christ stated it in this manner: *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock (Matthew 7:24-25).* James recorded these words: *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22).*

Notice these questions asked by Paul: *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher (Romans 10:13-14)?* John recorded the following event in the life of Christ: *As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:30-32).* For one to know is for one to have gained knowledge. Paul reminds us that we cannot gain the necessary knowledge without hearing or being taught the gospel of Christ.

To the Philippians Paul described the word of God as the "word of life". The gospel is the word of life because those who have not obeyed the gospel are dead in their sins (Ephesians 2:1).

One can know that there is a God without studying the word of God. *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (Psalm 19:1)* One

cannot know God's desires and commands for mankind without knowing the word of God.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer (Psalm 19:7-14).

The child of God must make the same plea as did the prophet of old: *O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD (Jeremiah 22:29).* The lost and dying world must hear and obey the word of God because in it is the only hope. The word of God not only tells of God but it tells of His love of the world and the salvation made possible through Christ Jesus.

The value of the word of God to the lost is beyond measure because it is all. Without obedience to the word of God nothing else matters (Matthew 16:26).

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THE VALUE OF BIBLE STUDY IN THE HOME

Tom Larkin

It is impossible this side of eternity to fully assess how much good Bible study will do for the home. To strengthen the home, which was instituted by God, we must turn to the Bible which was authored by God. As Israel was poised to enter the land of Canaan, God delivered principles that provide the foundation of faithfulness for generations to come. Consider the value of Bible study in our homes as we examine God's directive to Israel in Deuteronomy 6:4-12.

Our mental picture of Bible study in the home may be of a mother reading a Bible story to her children, or a father leading a family devotional. We may be reminded of our parents ensuring that we completed our Bible lessons. Without doubt such things are important, but this is not the first emphasis in God's decree to Israel. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart" (6:4-6). Notice this last phrase – "shall be in thine heart." Parents must teach their children, but it is first essential that they follow God's precepts themselves. Personal application (v. 4-6) must precede parental instruction (v. 7-9). Before we can effectively teach our children concerning the ways of God, we must make sure that we are walking in them ourselves.

The first benefit of Bible study in the home should be to better husbands/fathers and wives/mothers. Those who seek to fulfill their parental responsibilities would do well to spend much time in the word of God. Preparing Israel for

the time when they would seek a king, God issued the following charge – "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:" (Deuteronomy 17:18-19).

God intended for Israel's king to be a spiritual leader. Spiritual leadership will always arise from God's word. From his study, the king would learn to "fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this laws." Verse 20 speaks of his humility and diligent keeping of God's will. The result – "to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel" (v. 20). One will exert spiritual leadership in his home to the extent that he studies and follows the teachings of the Bible. And, as God promised a successful reign for the king who did so, the success of any home is tied directly to faithfulness to the word of God.

Only when parents recognize their personal responsibility to God will they be prepared to teach their children. This teaching must be "diligently" and we must maximize every opportunity to ingrain within our children what God expects of them (v. 7-9). I have never heard a parent who loves God as this passage instructs lament having spent too much time reading Bible stories and teaching the Bible to their children.

When children are diligently taught by faithful parents, they are more likely to grow up to love God and serve him faithfully. As Solomon

wrote, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (22:6). In his book *Restoring God's Pattern for the Home*, Winford Claiborne rightly observed, "teaching our children will not guarantee that our children will always do right, but failure to teach them will almost certainly guarantee that they will do wrong" (p. 289). Denied such training, a child has no basis for moral and ethical decisions.

A young girl posted pictures of an afternoon spent with friends on her social network site. Some were of her and some friends in bikinis. In a discussion with a Christian friend who questioned why she had posted pictures that were obviously immodest, she responded, "I never knew that was wrong." This young lady does not go to church and has no religious background or training. She did not know because she had not been taught. But when we teach our children diligently, they have a framework from which to properly evaluate such matters and thus avoid the sinful practices that enslave so many.

We seek to protect our children from harm, but the greatest protection that we can give them is a sound education in the word of God. The last few verses of this passage warn of the powerful effect of the world upon those who are not grounded in God's word (v. 10-12). Just as Israel was prone to forget God, so may that child who is not taught diligently "to fear the Lord thy God, and serve him" (v. 13).

Parent, your family's faith begins with you. Love the Lord fully, serve him faithfully and teach your children to do the same.

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THE VALUE OF BIBLE STUDY TO THE CHURCH (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

John B. Daniels

Paul prayed that brethren at Colossae be filled with the knowledge of His will. Other similar admonitions are as follows: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians, 3:16); knowledge must be added to faith (2 Peter 1:5); "Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). This is to be accomplished in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Therefore, Bible study is of great value to the Church because true knowledge, when applied, results in righteous conduct.

God has a purpose in everything he does. He has never engaged in idleness. He has never done something just for the sake of doing it. Therefore, God has purpose(s) in giving the Bible to man. Those purposes will be accomplished.

Isaiah 55 - 8 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

If God had not given man the Bible, man would not know about heaven, hell or sin. Man would not know that he is lost. He would not know that he has a need for a savior. Every effort to save man has been and will continue to be futile until he

is made to recognize he is lost and needs salvation. Thus, Timothy is given a charge to "Preach the word . . ." (2 Timothy 4:2). Preach means to "herald or proclaim" as the King's messenger. Certainly it suggests the authority and soberness with which we deliver the message. The "pardon-me-please" preaching that is so common today is not contemplated here. A good sermon has three basic elements. We must: (1) Reprove, (i.e., convict, convince) the mind of the truth so that the sinner might see his error; (2) Rebuke, as the truth is applied in a practical way to convert the will; (3) Exhort, ("encourage") the heart to respond. Hence, Bible study is of great value to the church when we allow the Word to both reprove and rebuke us and the result is our being exhorted.

For a third time (I Timothy 4:1; II Timothy 3:1) Paul warns about apostasy. The figure of people having itching ears came from animals who enjoy this type of petting. This type of person is not concerned about truth, but wants a message that "makes me feel good." (cf. I Kings 22:8); "And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so." Many people today prefer the "new" to the "true." When one abandons revealed truth, he "apostasizes" into myths (II Timothy 4:4). Therefore, Bible is of great value to the church, when properly applied, it will prevent apostasy.

In II Timothy 4:6-8 - *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I*

have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." It is here that Paul compares himself to a drink offering (Numbers 15:1-10) being gradually poured out. "A living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1) being offered every day is a true picture of a dedicated Christian. Someone once said, "the trouble with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar!" Paul did not think of his coming death as something being taken from him, as much as he saw his life being given to God as a sacrifice. Paul viewed death without fear. Shakespeare wrote, "Conscience doth make cowards of us all." But Paul's conscience was clear for he had done what God had commanded. He had fought the good fight (I Timothy 6:12) and was now ready to pass on the sword of the Spirit to Timothy.

Paul's efforts would be rewarded with a crown of righteousness (I Corinthians 9:25); a crown of life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). The fast runner in the Greek games received a laurel leaf crown to symbolize his victory, but the Lord's crown is not given only to him who comes in first, but to all who run in faith to the finish of life's race. So the value of Bible study to the church is paramount, when properly applied, it allows us to be the proper example to others.

God's purpose in giving man the Bible is only fulfilled when each person learns its message and applies it to his life so that he might have the salvation of his soul.

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A COMPARISON Hugo McCord

In several ways the church and the kingdom are similar, and in several ways they are different:

Similarities:

The King of the kingdom is the head of the church. (Colossians 1:13, 18).

1. Only one kingdom (basileia, Revelation 1:6) was established, and only one church was built ("one body" which is the "church" (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:18).
2. One set of keys opens the door both to the kingdom and to the church (Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:1-47; 5:11)
3. One seed, *"the word of God, produces both the kingdom and the church"* (Luke 8:11; 47; 5:11).
4. Baptism, a birth "of water and Spirit" (John 3:5:1 Corinthians 12:1), puts a sinner into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13:2:12) and into the church (1 Corinthians 12:13, 20).
5. The Lord's Supper is in both the kingdom and in the church (Luke 22:29-30; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:16).

6. Both the church and the kingdom are indestructible (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:28).

Differences:

1. That which is "born again," entering the kingdom, through the teaching of the Spirit, is an invisible human spirit (John 3:3, 6). That which is "born again" of "water," entering the church, through the teaching of the Spirit, is a visible human body.
2. The kingdom "comes not with observation" (Luke 17:20), but the church is observable people (Acts 8:8).
3. The kingdom is "within" (entos, Luke 17:21) human bodies, but not the church.
4. When a person is "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3), recognizing his utter helplessness to save himself (John 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:15-16), but he does not own the church. Sadly, there are people who have been baptized, and may have become church leaders (as *Diotrephes* (3 John 9-11), who are proud in spirit, but theirs is not "the kingdom of heaven." Pride leads to

calamity, and a haughty spirit to a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

5. When a person has been "persecuted for being righteous" (Mathew 5:10), as Polycarp (burned to death at the stake in Smyrna in 155 A.D.), as William Tyndale (strangled and burned to death in Anwerp, Belgium in 1536), his is "the kingdom of heaven" (Mathew 5:10, but he does not own the church.
6. The kingdom is internal (righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"), while the church is both internal ("Righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit") and external "eating and drinking" (Romans 14:17).
7. The kingdom deals with "the inward man" (2 Corinthians 4:16; I Peter 1:16), while the church deals with both "the inward man" and the "outward man" (I Corinthians 6:20; Philippians 4:8).

Deceased

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The Value of Bible Study to the Individual – by Chance Hicks ----- -continued from page 1

Paul instructed these Christians to put on the whole armor of God for the battle ahead. Christians today need to follow Paul's instructions as well, and we need to put on the whole armor of God every single day to stand against the forces of evil. All of the different parts of this armor come from the same source, the word of God. The belt of truth with which we are to gird our loins is from the word of God which is truth (John 17:17). The breastplate of righteousness is from the word of God because all of God's commands are righteousness (Psa. 119:172). The Gospel, or good

news, of peace with which our feet are to be shod is the word of God. The shield of faith comes from the word of God because it is the word of God which produces faith (Rom. 10:17). The helmet of salvation comes from the word of God because it is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Paul says expressly that our sword, the sword of the Spirit, is the word of God.

It is so important that we spend time in individual Bible study because that is the only thing that is going to prepare us for the spiritual battle we face on a daily basis. When we spend time in Bible study

putting on our armor, then we will be able to "*quench all the fiery darts of the wicked*" (Eph. 6:16). Our shield of faith will be able to resist all that Satan throws our way. We cannot rely on the study of the preacher, the elders, or the Bible class teacher in order to withstand the fiery darts of Satan. The armor of God which they wear will not be able to protect us in the spiritual battles of life. May we all endeavor daily to put on the whole armor of God by spending time studying the word of God to grow in faith and in knowledge!

WORKS BY FRANKLIN CAMP AND BOBBY DUNCAN

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