

2020 Behold Conference
Session 3 - Perseverance in Studying the Scripture

1. Continuing in the Word

A. Failure to continue in the Word

1) The Lord expected people to read

- Matthew 12:3-5
- Matthew 19:3-4
- Matthew 21:14-16
- Matthew 21:42
- Matthew 22:31-32

Cf. Mark 2:25, 12:10, 12:26, and Luke 6:3

2) The Lord expected people to remember

- John 15:20
- Acts 11:16
- James 1:25

B. Fruitful continuing in the Word

1) Read Effectively

2) Read Consistently

3) Read Repeatedly

4) Read Inquisitively

5) Read Memorably

2. Correlating the Word

Correlation is the synthesis of connecting the truths of our Bible study into an integrated whole.

A. Failure to correlate the Word

- 1) Losing knowledge
- 2) Losing perspective
- 3) Losing context
- 4) Losing truth

B. Fruitful correlation of the Word

- 1) The nature of God's revelation

All truth is consistent and correlated.

- 2) The nature of biblical interpretation

All of the Bible is consistent and correlated.

Correlation will help us to understand and remember the truth of the word better because God's progressive revelation requires comparison.

- 3) The nature of our learning process

As we learn more, we understand better.

Our mind grasps truth progressively over time.

The process of correlation protects us from emphasizing minor points of the Scripture and overlooking the more significant matters (Matthew 23:23-24).

Correlation is part of the process of growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus (2 Peter 3:18) as it develops our thinking, and if our thinking is not changed our lives will not change.

3. Carrying out the Word

A. Failure to carry out the Word

Growth in our spiritual life comes not merely from hearing the word but from hearing and doing (James 1:22-25).

How people delude themselves in carrying out the Word:

- 1) Application that is not based on the Scripture
- 2) Substitution of interpretation for application
- 3) Application in ways that are already being practiced
- 4) Rationalization to the status quo
- 5) Substitution of an emotional experience for a volitional decision
- 6) Substitution of confession for change in behavior

B. Fruitful conduct of the Word

Application brings blessing (John 13:17).

The very purpose of the Scripture is to bring life change (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Applicational principles are affected by the type of biblical literary genre:

- 1) Epistolary literature is didactic in nature.
- 2) Wisdom literature is generalized in nature.
- 3) Narrative literature is implicit in nature.

In the Scripture we have different types of instruction:

- 1) Explicit commands given to us
 - a) Direct statements of command that are objectively applied for all
 - b) Direct statements of command that are subjectively applied for all
- 2) Explicit principles given to us
- 3) Implicit principles given to others
- 4) Derivative principles discerned by us

Much of our benefit of Scriptural application will come from understanding the significance of the biblical literature to our own lives.

Many have noted that we must read the Bible with a mind toward application, asking questions such as:

- Is there any example for me to follow?
- Is there any command for me to obey?
- Is there any error for me to avoid?
- Is there any sin for me to forsake?
- Is there any promise for me to know?
- Is there any understanding of God ?

Application of the Scripture is essential but equally essential is the motive for the application. Life change ought not to be made merely because of its benefits to us or even because we read it in the Bible. The motive for change must be fundamentally a response to God Himself (e.g 1 Peter 3:21).

4. Communicating the Word

A. Failure in communicating the Word

The Word of God is for us but is not only for us. If we are to apply the word of God we must pass the truth of it on to others (Matthew 28:19-20).

Applications must be made by the communicator of God's word else that person would be hypocritical.

Yet we fail to communicate the word of God when we substitute teaching applications for teaching the Bible.

When you communicate applications as biblical expectations you necessarily violate Romans 14:1-13. When the communication of an application leads the hearer to a conclusion that there is one application that is the right application, the danger of passing judgment on the opinions of others increases.

B. Fruitful communication of the Word

Some opportunities we have to tell others about what God says may come in for formal settings.

Most opportunities to pass along the truth of God come in informal settings.

Our fruitfulness in serving the Lord will be great as we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, being an effectual doer who teaches others also (2 Timothy 2:2).