

Lesson 12

Review

1. From your own experience and knowledge as well as what you have learned in this course, write down as many reasons as you can of why it is important for God's people to memorize Scripture especially in its full context.

These were mine:

1. The Bible is the only place where God's Words are recorded.
2. God has commanded us to "*take* the Sword of the Spirit" (not leave it at home lying on the coffee table).
3. Memorized Scripture is in our minds to meditate on in quiet moments.
4. It is in our minds to guide us on the path of righteousness (Psalm 40:8; 119:11)
5. It is there to influence our thinking and our decisions any time of the day or night.
6. It is there to impart wisdom in times of indecision.
7. It is there to draw strength from in times of despair.
8. In spiritual warfare, it is a vital weapon for use in both defense and offense.
9. It revitalizes our daily walk.
10. It enhances your prayer life.
11. It broadens our ability to praise and worship our great and wonderful God.
12. There in our minds it can never be taken from us.
13. Memorizing Scripture is the best and surest investment of the time we have in this world.
14. Scripture is the only part of eternity we can grasp in our fleeting, finite existence. We must grasp it firmly. Remember God's Word is forever.

2. Can you name the only two things in this world that will last forever?

Chapter 2 - The Word of God and the Soul of man.

3. a) What is the warning of Psalm 1:1 and how does it apply to us as we seek God's blessing in the memorization of His precious Words?

This verse points out the importance of checking our bearings. What is our motivation in life and where is our focus? Where are we headed? Are we really serious about getting to know the Lord in a meaningful way? We are warned that if we are pursuing the allure of this world we are not in the path of "blessing". It follows that we should proceed with sincere motives and a heart focused on getting to know the Author more intimately.

Along with motivation and focus, another consideration that can be gleaned from this verse is the importance of proceeding with a *pure* heart. We must address any unconfessed sin in our lives. If there is anything that is hindering our open communication with the Lord, we need to be sure to confess it and be cleansed (as was David in Psalm 51). Only then can the Lord have an open channel into our heart and our thinking.

So, if we want to fully enjoy God's blessing in memorizing His Word, this verse is telling us that it is important for us to check our bearings, make sure we're aimed in the right direction and that there is nothing clogging the light and the power of God's Word focusing in on our heart and life.

b) From Psalm 1:2 what two things are mentioned that are important to keep in mind as you memorize God's Holy Word?

Delight and Meditate/ Proceed with joy and constantly review.

4. What strategy would you say the devil has used most effectively to prevent Christians from taking Scripture memorization seriously and to discourage those who are pursuing this blessing?

It will be good to discuss the various answers that are given. My opinion is that our enemy works hardest to make the joy and vital privilege of memorizing holy Scripture into a dead, legalistic drudgery. "Oh, I can't memorize" and "Memorize Scripture? I don't have time!" are the product of such thinking. We need to be aware of his cynical strategies. Pray against them and proceed with joy.

5. What helpful guidelines outlined in Chapter 9 would be good to keep in mind as you proceed on your pilgrimage?

Be accountable to someone.
Be prepared for spiritual warfare.
Have a planned strategy.
Guard your time.
Build carefully.
Pray for divine insight and application in your daily life.
Meditate and delight as you review God's eternal truths.
Take breathers as needed and then go on.

6. What will you do if you find your focus and enthusiasm waning?

1. Realize that this may be a satanic attack. Take a stand against him in prayer.
2. Prayerfully review Scripture passages that the Holy Spirit has used in the past to spark your enthusiasm.
3. Review parts of *The Sword* that you have found helpful, also the Testimonies in appendix C. Someone has said that *The Sword* is not a book just to be read, it is a textbook to be used constantly for reference.
4. And there will be times when it will be helpful to just take a break. Give yourself this freedom. And just enjoy what you have memorized, then be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's nudging when it is time to proceed.

7. Review testimonies in Appendix C and jot down brief comments of some the Holy Spirit has used to speak to your heart.

8. Take a few moments to consider where the emphasis of your life is being placed. Contemplate the value of making Scripture memorization a life change, not just a passing phase. Jot down your heart's response to the Holy Spirit's urging.

9. Now, you are completing this study series, but you are just beginning a journey. It will be important for you to have a continuing plan in place. Being accountable is important. In this class you have been accountable to each other but now this built-in accommodation will be ending. What type of arrangement do you anticipate will meet your need as you continue?

Consider the possibilities:

Would you prefer that members of this group continue meeting to help and encourage each other as they have during these past weeks? If so, how do you see this being accomplished?

Would a smaller group or a one on one arrangement better suit your situation?

Would you be willing to let the Lord use you to inspire others to open their hearts and minds to His heart and mind through memorizing His Holy Word? Would you be open to letting Him use you to start a group of your own?

Write out your personal preference.

Paul told us: Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT)

And now I entrust you to God and the Word of His grace—His message that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself. (Acts 20:32 NLT)

Always Remember:

It is not getting to know the words of Scripture that is important; it is getting to know the Author.

In Real Estate, the emphasis is always, "Location! Location! Location!" In retaining Scripture we have memorized it is, Review! Review! Review!

You can't eat an elephant at one sitting. But it can be done, one bite at a time.

When you train, you don't start by running five miles the first day. You start slow and work up to it. Similarly, memorizing takes time.

*. . . precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept,
Line upon line, line upon line,
Here a little, there a little. (Isaiah 28:10)*

Fix these words of mine on your hearts and minds . . . (Deuteronomy 11:18)

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your law is written on my heart. (Psalm 40:8)

The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip (Psalm 37:31)

Accept instruction from His mouth and lay up His words in your heart. (Job 22:22)

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. (Psalm 19:7-8)*

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. (Psalm 16:7)

The entrance of (His) words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:130)

*They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold:
They are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. (Psalm 19:10)*

They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. (Deuteronomy 32:47)

. . . there hath not failed one word of all His good promise.... (Kings 8:56 - KJV)

I run in the path of your commands because you have set my heart free. (Ps 119:32)

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. (Psalm 119:45)

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

When your words came I ate them; they were my joy and my hearts' delight . . . (Jeremiah 15:16)

Food for Thought:

Nuggets from here and there!

Scripture is the only part of eternity we can grasp in our fleeting, finite existence.

Meditating is having an attitude of submission to God

The Words of God are written in only one place — the Bible.

The person who has trouble memorizing may be the best "mediator".

The Bible is the language of heaven and will not pass away. (Matt 24:35)

Think Scripture! Apply it to everyday circumstances.

Meditation helps us think straight in a crooked world.

Memorizing is the best way to get the Bible into your life.

Make it a habit. Good habits are hard to learn but slow and steady wins the race.

Without a commitment the job will never be done.

Memorizing Scripture shows us how to live God's way.

Scripture feeds us; it helps us communicate hope; it strengthens us against the world; it helps us to get rid of bad habits.

Scripture memorization provides messages of hope at critical times in life; it purifies our thoughts; and gives direction in times of confusion.

Memorized "words" may be of little value. It is the meditation and absorption into our mind and life that allows Scripture to bear fruit in our lives.

Growth to spiritual maturity comes only by feeding upon God's Word, and memorization enhances this.

Memorization is like exercise. The more you do it, the easier it gets; the less you do it, the harder it gets.

So much Scripture! So little time!

Scripture is the only *pure truth* that exists in this world.

Memorizing Scripture is the best investment you can make of your time in this world.