

Learning God's Word
(Psalm 119:73)

Introduction:

1. Some very important information is revealed in Psalm 119:73.
 - a. The writer first acknowledged the fact that God had created him.
 - b. This led him to ask God for "understanding."
 - c. He realized that understanding from God would enable him to do something very special -- "learn God's commandments."
2. Today we are examining a number of passages that relate to "learning God's Word."
3. Since a new school year is beginning, perhaps this is a good time for us to be reminded about the importance of learning the Scriptures.
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO LEARN HIS WORD
 - A. This principle is taught in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - B. Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:6-9
 - C. New Testament: (1 Peter 2:2) "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word.*"
 - D. One reason why we must follow these instructions is that . . .
- II. FAILURE TO LEARN GOD'S WORD RESULTS IN DISASTER
 - A. This principle is also taught in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - B. Old Testament: (Isaiah 5:13) "*Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge.*"
 - C. New Testament: John 12:48.
 - D. This information should impress us with the importance of learning God's Word.
 1. God wants us to learn His Word.
 2. Failure to do so will result in disaster.
 - E. Let's turn our attention to the fact that . . .
- III. MANY SPECIAL BLESSINGS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH GOD'S WORD
 - A. These blessings are revealed in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - B. Old Testament:
 1. "cleansing" (Psalm 119:9)
 2. "power to overcome temptation" (Psalm 119:11)
 3. "direction" (Psalm 119:105)
 - C. New Testament:
 1. "increasing your knowledge of Christ" (John 5:39)
 2. "knowing the truth that will make you free" (John 8:31-32)
 3. "being loved by Christ and the Father" (John 14:21)
 - D. For our next point we need to show . . .
- IV. WHY GOD'S WORD PROVIDES THESE BLESSINGS
 - A. (Hebrews 4:12) God's Word is alive and active.
 - B. (John 6:63) Jesus said that His Words "*are spirit, and they are life.*"
 - C. (Ephesians 6:17) The Word of God is "*the sword of the Spirit.*"
 - D. Before we close, let us receive encouragement from some . . .
- V. BIBLE CHARACTERS WHO DESIRED TO LEARN GOD'S WORD
 - A. The Israelites during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (Nehemiah 8)
 1. (vs.1-3) They asked Ezra to read God's law to them.
 2. (vs.5-6, 7b) They were reverent and respectful.
 - B. The people by the Sea of Galilee during the Lord's ministry (Luke 5:1)
 1. Jesus had been sent to preach (Luke 4:43).
 2. He "*preached in the synagogues of Galilee*" (Luke 4:44).
 3. By the Sea of Galilee, "*the people pressed upon Him*" to hear God's Word.
 - C. Mary (Luke 10:38-39)

- D. The 3,000 in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2:41)
1. These people had asked what they needed to do (vs.37).
 2. Peter answered their question (vs.38).
 3. Those who *"gladly received"* Peter's instructions obeyed them.
 4. They were added to the Lord's church (vs.47).

Conclusion:

1. We have seen that the Scriptures emphasize the importance of learning God's Word.
2. Suggestions for studying the Scriptures:
 - a. Begin with the statement found in Psalm 119:73.
 - b. Develop this attitude toward the Scriptures -- *"O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day"* (Psalm 119:97).
 - c. When you study, make this request of the Lord -- *"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law"* (Psalm 119:18).