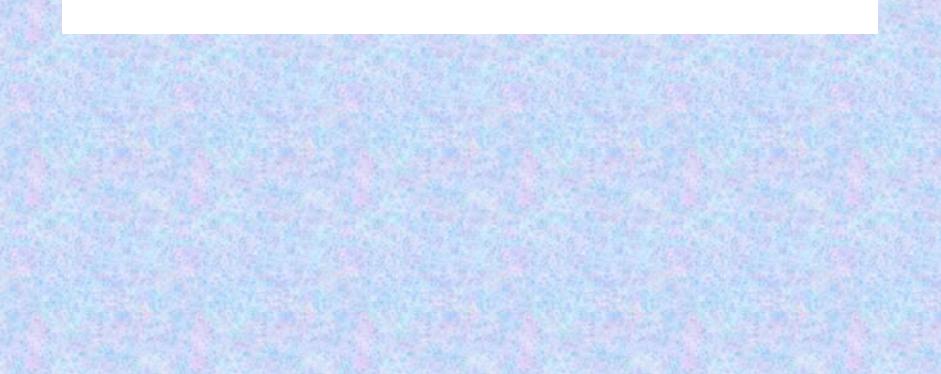


### The Importance of Bible Study



## Some Minimize Its Importance



- Roman Catholicism
  - Once sought to prevent translation into languages of the people.
  - Say laity does not have right of interpretation.
  - -2 Peter 1:20
    - Refers to origin, not understanding.
    - Interpretation simply means understanding the author's original intent.

## Some Minimize Its Importance



- Speak well of the Bible, but...
- Trust the "pastor" for guidance.
- May follow a traditional creed. Matt. 15:6-9
- Believe the Holy Spirit will guide them.
  - Often quite subjective. Eph. 6:17
- Too hard to understand. Eph. 3:3-5
- Think "attitude" is all that matters. Matt. 7:21-23
  - Downplay doctrine.
  - Call focus on Bible "Pharisaical." Matt. 23:23

## Some Minimize Its Importance



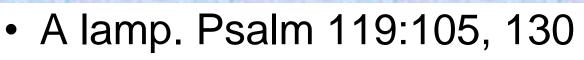
- Churches of Christ
  - Winds of change are blowing.
    - Some decry legalism and want to follow a more emotional, subjective path.
  - Sometimes minimized in practice.

#### All Are to Understand God's Will



- Can't know God's mind by guesswork, but it must be revealed. 1 Cor. 2:11-13
- Revealed, recorded, to be read and understood. Eph. 3:3-5
- Brings us to completeness. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

# Appreciate the Word as...



- Critical to life. Matthew 4:4
- God's way to freedom. John 8:31-32
- The standard of judgment. John 12:48
- Means of producing saving faith.
  John 17:20; 20:30-31; Romans 10:17
- God's power to save. Romans 1:16
- The sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17

## Appreciate the Word as...

- Necessary to being a teacher.
  2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 5:12
- Making one complete. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Able to produce growth. 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:17-18
- Leading to a fullness of joy. 1 John 1:3-4

Appreciation of the Word Will Change Our Lives



- Our homes.
  - Less TV and more study.
  - More zeal to teach our children.
- Bible classes.
  - Increased attendance.
  - Better preparation.
  - Different expectations.
  - Teachers.
    - More will rise to the challenge.
    - Will work harder and focus on the Bible.

Appreciation of the Word Will Change Our Lives



- Worship.
  - Increase attendance for preaching.
  - Affect our view of preaching.
  - Affect our conduct during the sermon.
  - Attend gospel meetings.

#### Conclusion

- The foolish person is not the one who values the Bible, but the one who minimizes its importance.
- Is there a practical difference between one who doctrinally rejects the Bible and one whose life constitutes a rejection of it?
- What will you do with the Bible?