



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



- Protestants
 - 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



- That we might do it. Matt. 7:21-23
- 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...



- A lamp. Psalm 119:105, 130
- 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?