



The Good News

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“Contend earnestly for the Faith”

By Michael McCleary

Our Gospel Meeting starts today, and with it is a study of the book of Jude. Jude states that “while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude v.3). In order to contend earnestly for the faith, we must make studying God’s Word a focal point in our lives. Consider the following points about the need to study God’s Word:

The Scriptures teach us about salvation – II Tim. 3:14-16 – In this text, Paul reminds Timothy to never forget the Scriptures “...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” Paul goes on to say that the Scriptures are able to make the man of God “...complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” It is vitally important that we study God’s word on our own because it holds the knowledge of salvation, and we must study in order to know what we must do in order to secure eternal life.

The Scriptures teach us to be obedient, pleasing God – Deut. 17:18-20 – As Moses discusses the requirements of character for a would-be king over Israel, he tells the people that the king shall make a copy of the Law, and study it. In describing the character of a king that would please God, we find that knowledge of the Law, coupled with faithful obedience, is what God desired, and we must study so that we can always be faithfully obedient as well, ensuring that we always please God.

The Scriptures teach us to apply spiritual wisdom and knowledge – Prov. 2:1-15 –

As Solomon writes words of wisdom to his “son”, he makes particular points about the value of godly knowledge and wisdom, and how that within them we find the righteousness of God. Beginning in **2:10-15**, Solomon describes the natural application of godly wisdom and knowledge. We must always study God’s word so that we can know how we are to apply God’s word in such a way that it will be true to His teaching and benefit our spiritual and (as a result) our physical lives.

The Scriptures teach us how to teach others – Prov. 15:28 – Solomon says “*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*” Whenever anyone asks us concerning the reason of hope within us, we must be ready with an answer. But we cannot just spout nonsense...we must study God’s word in order to answer in a way that will be in line with what God teaches and is easy to understand.

As Christians, we often admit that in order to “talk the talk, we must walk the walk”. However, shouldn’t the same principle apply to our personal lives as much as we set this example in as a congregation? As a congregation, we put a clear focus on studying God’s Word. Shouldn’t our personal lives reflect the same focus? It seems only...logical ...that one should mirror the other, doesn’t it?