Handling the Word of Truth
2 Tim 2:15
2 Tim 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
Five Ways of Handling the Word of Truth
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- Hearing (Rom. 10:17)
Romans 10:17 (ESV)

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
Five Ways of Handling the Word of Truth

- Hearing (Rom. 10:17)
- Reading (Eph. 3:4)
Ephesians 3:4 (ESV)

4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
Alexander Campbell on Bible Reading

“Christians, do you read the Bible in your families every day? Do you read it in your closet every day? And do you read it not to quiet your conscience as a work of penance; but do you read it as a pleasure anxiously to be sought after? If you do, I need not tell you what utility, pleasure, and happiness is in the blessed employment. But if you do not, you may rest assured there is something greatly wrong, which, if it is not abandoned, subdued, or vanquished soon, will cause you sorrows, if not agonies, when you will be less able to conflict with them than at present. Resolve this moment, I pray you, that you will begin to-day to read the Bible, to enjoy God and Christ and the hope of immortality.”
Five Ways of Handling the Word of Truth

- Hearing (Rom. 10:17)
- Reading (Eph. 3:4)
- Studying (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
Bible Study

- **2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV) — 15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- **Acts 17:11 (ESV) — 11** Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
Things to Look for in Bible Study

- Commands to obey
- Sins to avoid
- Promises
- Examples to follow
- Truth about God
- Other Truths
- Application to me
Tools for Bible Study

- Bible Class material
- Concordances, dictionaries, commentaries
- Bible software and websites
Five Ways of Handling the Word of Truth

- Hearing (Rom. 10:17)
- Reading (Eph. 3:4)
- Studying (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
- Memorizing (Psa. 119:11)
Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Matthew 4:3–4 (ESV)

3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
Five Ways of Handling the Word of Truth

- Hearing (Rom. 10:17)
- Reading (Eph. 3:4)
- Studying (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11)
- Memorizing (Psa. 119:11)
- Meditating (Psa. 1:1-2)
Psalm 1:1–2 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
How to Meditate

- When? Any time our minds are otherwise unoccupied, we can meditate upon God and His word
- When? In the night watches, early in the morning, all the day (Psalm 119:147, 148, 97)
- Where? Isaac actively sought time alone to meditate (Gen. 24:63)
Current Drifts Among Christ-Followers
Neglecting God’s Word is Hurting the Church ...

- **Pornography is tripping up Christian men.** Men attending church who occasionally indulge in it: 53%. Overall, the largest consumers of Internet porn: men between 25 and 44 (46%).

- **Unmarried Christians are living together.** A significant minority of self-identified, born-again Christians - particularly those under thirty-five - have cohabited (and many see nothing wrong with it).

- **Marriages are failing among believers.** Divorce rates for Christians are statistically identical to those of non-Christians (32% vs. 33%, respectively).

- **Adults are leaving Christian churches.** More than 1/4 of American adults have left the faith in which they were raised for another religion or no religion at all. (Some attempt to keep the faith but reject “church.”)

- **A growing number of men are lukewarm.** Men (about 1 in 5) are more likely than women (about 1 in 8) to claim no formal religious affiliation.

- **A significant number of young adults have left the Christian church.** Among Americans ages 18 to 29, 1/4 say they are not currently affiliated with any particular religion.

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Without the Bible ...

“There are no statistical differences in the behaviors of those who read or listen to the Bible one to three times a week and those who spend ‘zero days’ doing so. In other words, the lives of Christ-followers who rarely read the Bible appear identical to those who don’t follow Christ at all.”

*Dr. Arnie Cole, co-author of Unstuck*
Our No. 1 Excuse: “I Don’t Have Time for the Bible!”

Consider this: During a typical work day, the average adult American spends\(^7\) ...

- 1 hour eating and drinking
- **8.8** hours working (which includes e-mailing, surfing the Web, texting, and talking on the phone)
- **1.3** hours caring for others, including children
- **1** hour doing household activities (including cooking and cleaning)
- **1.7** hours doing “other” activities such as surfing the Web, texting, and talking on the phone for personal reasons
- **2.6** hours in leisure activities (including watching TV)
- **7.6** hours sleeping

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