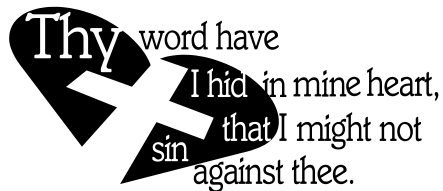


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 12



P s a l m 1 1 9 : 1 1

OUR USE OF THE BIBLE

Scripture Texts: 1 Peter 2:2-3; Hebrews 5:12-14; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Luke 11:28; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

It is not enough to own a Bible. We must hunger for it, hunger to read it, take it into our hearts. We cannot be hungry by trying. Start in and read it. That helps. But the only way to complete your desire is told in **1 Peter 2:2-3**—if you are saved. The taste of Jesus brings hunger for His Word. As we hunger and read, the Holy Spirit brings a greater understanding. When we read it with the God-given desire, we will grow thereby.

Since God gave us the Bible to use, it is our responsibility to use it. We must believe it, take it without addition or subtraction, obey it, teach it to our children, and spread its message to all people. For us to use the Bible, we must know it. If we do not use it correctly, we will lose it directly. Use it rightfully, and it is effective.

MEMORY VERSE: *But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.—Luke 11:28*

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Deuteronomy 6:1-7** Teaching the Word at home.

Tue.—**Amos 8:4-14** A famine of the Word.

Wed.—**Hebrews 5:12-14** Progress from milk to meat.

Thu.—**1 Peter 2:1-8** Only the saved grow by the Word.

Fri.—**Psalm 119:161-176** The preciousness of God's Word.

Devotional Reading: Matthew 7:21-29 The wise obey God's Word.

Hunger for the Word

1 Peter 2:2-3 As newborn babes, desire . . . These are people who had been born again, quickened, or made alive, by the Word. Being made alive by the Word, they need the Word to continue in this new life. As the newborn infant requires milk for nourishment, so the newborn Christian needs **the sincere milk of the word** to live thereby. As the natural baby's first desire is to find something to eat, so the newborn Christian will desire the Word of God. However, we cannot desire of ourselves, and God does not ask us to. He plants the desire when He saves and fills us with the Spirit. We cultivate the desire. He satisfies as we obey. **The sincere milk**—the pure, unadulterated, plain teachings of God which are found in the Bible. **That ye may grow . . .** Milk makes a baby grow. God's Word makes a soul grow wiser, stronger, more godly, more effectual in prayer, and more able to be of service to God. **If so be**—a condition attached—**that ye have tasted**—experienced the saving grace of the Lord, been born again. A baby must live before it can eat and grow. A soul must live spiritually before it can eat and grow by the Word. A **natural**, or unsaved, one might read the Bible for years and never grow (**1 Corinthians 2:14**). The order is: live, eat, grow.

Study the Word

Hebrews 5:12 **Ye ought to be teachers.** These Hebrews had heard the Gospel so many years and professed to be followers of the Lord. They should know the truth and be capable of teaching it to others, but were still children in understanding, unable to understand the deeper truths (meats). They still required milk (the primary principles of the Word). Some people are **ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth** (**2 Timothy 3:7**). They hear the Gospel, but not mixed with faith in them, it is to no avail. Read **Romans 2:13; James 1:21-25**. Under the same preaching, some will grow spiritually, while others die (**1 Corinthians 10:3-5**).

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Hebrews 5:13 He is a babe—He who understands only the primary doctrines of the Gospel testifies that he is only a babe (beginner) in Christ. Perhaps he has failed to study the Word and apply it to his life, or is **dull of hearing** (**Hebrews 5:11; Acts 28:27**). We should diligently study God's Word and come to a mature understanding of the deeper truths and not tarry with the primary doctrines such as repentance and faith.

Hebrews 5:14 Strong meat—The deeper, richer truths of God belong to the older saint rather than the newborn because he has grown and matured. A baby cannot be expected to digest the same food as an older person, neither should he be a baby forever. **Those who by reason of use have their senses exercised**— Those who have searched its pages with a hungry and believing heart, have obeyed its commands, have grown to be stalwart Christians, able to discern good from evil. Parents become concerned when a baby lacks growth and proper development in due time. So should it cause concern when a babe in Christ fails to develop into more than a spiritual bottle baby. Healthy babies grow up. Many have been deceived by some smooth-tongued, would-be prophet because they failed to study the Word and so were unable to discern truth from error. Every saint, whatever his place in the church, should be a teacher of the Bible.

Teach the Word in the Home

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 In thine heart—The Christian should prize the Word of God above all else. Like David, we should hide it in our hearts (**Psalms 119:11**). If it be not in our hearts, it will profit us nothing. **Thou shalt teach . . . thy children**. God commands Israel to teach His Word to their offspring. Christians should consider the Bible the supreme Book of the home. Along with some other good books are many bad books. They can influence and mislead, thus wrecking one's Christian life. With all diligence, patience, and understanding, we should teach the Word to our children while they are young, that it may mold their lives as they grow. The Word never returns empty (**Isaiah 55:11**). If received into the heart, it will save; if rejected, it will damn.

Obey the Word

Luke 11:28 Jesus said, Yea rather, blessed are they— Some are more blessed than others. Blessed is the mother who bore Jesus (**Luke 11:27**). More blessed are **they that hear the word of God, and keep it**. This is how much God values obedience. **Not everyone that saith . . . but he that doeth the will of my Father . . .** The wise man whose house will not fall is **whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them** (**Matthew 7:21, Matthew 7:24**). To fall short in obedience is to lose all.

Be Equipped With the Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture . . . is profitable . . . thoroughly furnished . . . The end result of eating food is strength to do. So, the end result of taking the Word of God is spiritual strength to do **all good works**. Thus we are equipped to fill our place in the church. First, we must take His Word into our souls; then we can give it out to others. No taking in, no giving out effectively.

Hands Off the Word

Revelation 22:18-19 If every commandment is observed fully, it will accomplish its purpose. **I testify**— Jesus speaking—**If any man shall add . . . God shall add . . . plagues . . . If any man take away . . . God shall take away his part . . .** It is a dangerous thing to tamper with the Bible. We are not to add to nor subtract from it. To add to its precepts is to suffer the judgments of God; to diminish from it is to lose the blessings it offers. We must handle the Bible with fear and reverence.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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