

God's Open Book Final Examination-Your Life

The Spiritual discipline of Study

2-26-17

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Fear God and Keep His Commandments

9 Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. 10 The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Many scriptural exhortations to study God's Holy Word

11 *Timothy 2:15* "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."

Romans 12: 2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The need to study

Exhorted by Solomon the wisest man ever excepting the Lord Jesus Christ

The Mighty Power of God's Word-the Truth opens the door to freedom

Study empowers the steadying of the mind through developing knowledge and wisdom.

Definition of study as a spiritual discipline

It is a means of knowing God and learning His truths and priorities, falling more deeply in love with Him-often analytical as opposed to feeling orientation as in contemplation

Why add the discipline of study into your life?

This is a means for the Spirit to transform us-explore and find the truth for ourselves-it will ultimately make me better prepared to give an account of my faith to others

What will study accomplish?

Done best in fostering community as shared discipleship-daily personal quiet times invest our time in learning of our great God-cause our hearts to be broken as we see the great love of God for humanity and His selfless sacrifices to promote relational intimacy with us If properly applied it will lead us to be more like Jesus-If not we may fall into the legalism and self promotion as seen by the actions of the Pharisees and their true hearts

The chief duty of man-application of our subject matter

"Fear God and keep His commandments"

OUR FINAL EXAM-Will You Pass?

God's Promise to Expose and Judge Every Deed (secret or not) good or evil

Will you fear the Lord? Proverbs 29:25

"Fearing People is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety"