

Recap of 12/17/17:

1. The Word of God is vital to...

-answering false doctrine and false teachers 1 Timothy 4:1-6,11-16; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 4:1-4
it is essential to the doctrinal purity of the church. Paul instructs Timothy as Pastor and Elder of the Ephesian church to beware of those who would pervert the gospel and lead believers astray. The leadership of the church had a duty to know, teach, and guard the truth (Titus 1:9-10).

-personal and corporate purity Jude 3,4; Proverbs 29:18; Psalm 119:9-11

Because doctrine determines lifestyle it is vital for believers to know and live out the truth of the Word. Doctrinal deviation precedes practical deviation from a godly lifestyle. We must know the Word of God, memorize it, and embrace its truths, living them out daily.

-to proper relationship both in and out of the Body of Christ. John 13:34 and other "one-another" passages.

There is no issue of life the Bible does not address either directly or in principle. Studying and living out the "one-another passages will enrich our lives in every relationship.

2. We must handle the Word of God accurately. In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul challenges Christians (especially leaders) to correctly handle the Scripture. The Word of God must not be mishandled. Paul's concept is that those especially who teach the people of God must approach Scripture as a master craftsman handles the tools of his trade. We must correctly understand and teach the Word of God, to literally "cut straight lines" with the Truth.

3. To do that we must employ good resources, such as: a good Study Bible (Ryrie Study Bible; NIV Study Bible; Scofield Study Bible for example); a Bible Atlas, a Bible Dictionary, a Bible Concordance, and especially a good Bible Commentary (I recommend the Bible Knowledge Commentary).