

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it. **2Timothy 3:14***

Store In My Heart

1Thessalonians 4:1

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

Shortly after Paul left Thessalonica he sent Timothy back to see how the brethren were doing. They were under heavy persecution by the Jews of that region and he was concerned about their faith. Timothy brought back the report that prompted this letter and it gave Paul much comfort. As this letter mentions several times, they were continuing in the faith. They were living to please God, just as they had been taught.

But note Paul's instruction, "do so more and more." Just living for God was not enough, they must put forth every effort and continue in such a life. We must do the same.



Gleaning

Wisdom

Dan Henderson

In today's world of easy access and electronic information we are presented with a multitude of opportunities to learn from the experience of others on almost every topic imaginable. With periodicals, books, websites, email list, sermons on tape, video, cd, dvd, etc., we can almost always find information to help us in our study of God's Word. We must use these sources carefully or we can stray from the truth. This has always been the case of the concerned student of Scripture. The New Testament writers warned their readers of the need to compare the teaching of men with God's Word (**2Timothy 3:10-17**).

Another problem that arises from reading and listening to others is misunderstanding. This can cause serious problems not only for the student but also for the writer or speaker. There are some things we must keep in mind when trying to learn from others which will help prevent such misunderstandings and help us to glean maximum wisdom from the teaching of others. Consider some of these things with me.

Listen

Most important in learning from others is the art of truly listening to what is said. This involves much more than just hearing the words. Much of the time we only give partial attention to a speaker or writer. If we are to learn without misunderstanding what is taught we must first give close and complete attention to the teacher. We must keep our mind focused on the message and resist the urge to prepare a response while we are listening for an opportunity to present 'our side.' Many disagreements begin with this lack of attention to listening.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is still in ICU at the local hospital as of this writing.

Betty Ragsdale is in a lot of pain in her upper back and shoulder. She is to consult with a surgeon soon.

Adene Gray is visiting in Oklahoma for the next week or so.

Dan & JoBeth will leave for Alabama Thursday. Boyce Barger will preach next Sunday.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.



Consider

Next we must give some time to consideration of the message we have heard. We need to consider both the message and the messenger. We will better understand what is taught if we understand something about the one doing the teaching. All of us are influenced by our surroundings. One that has spent his entire life living in a large metropolitan area could likely misuse an analogy regarding farm life. This could lead to one that is familiar with country living to misunderstand the point being made. The teacher here has failed in presenting his message, but the wise student, knowing his teacher, may be able to gain from the teaching what was intended with consideration and maybe even talking with the teacher to clarify the point.

Context

Along with listening and consideration we must also keep context clear in our minds in all of our study. When learning from the teaching of another we need to know if the message is trying to cover the entire subject or just one part of it. Is the teacher only looking at the blessing found in serving God or does he include the work involved as well? Without such understanding we could be led to believe the writer is teaching we are not obligated to work for the Lord. Also in considering context we must again give attention to the messenger's background if possible.

Compare

Once we have given our attention to the message and feel we understand to the best of our ability what has been presented we must dedicate time to compare. We must compare every message to what God has left to guide us. Paul commended the Bereans for such comparison (**Acts 17:11**). This comparison must be done after we understand what has been taught or we may mistake teaching as false. If we begin comparing a lesson which is dealing with our obligation in salvation before we consider that the teacher is only discussing that one part, we could easily begin to think he is teaching salvation by works which is in opposition with Scripture. Such misunderstanding could easily lead to unnecessary discussion and debate. Many religious arguments have begun because of similar misunderstandings.

Let us all give our best to the study of God's Word. Let us each give diligence in learning from the teachers who have gone before us and those who freely offer their wisdom for our consideration. Let us also be careful in our study so that we can gain as much as possible from what is presented without jumping to quick conclusions which will often lead to misunderstanding and strife. Prepare diligently for your service to God and study carefully that you might be wise in the Way of God.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!