

INLAND CHURCHES BLENDING MEETING—AUGUST 26, 2023

Getting into the Life-study of the Bible

Scripture Reading: Psa. 119:130; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 2:4; John 6:35, 51, 63, 68; Matt. 4:4; Eph. 5:16; 2 Tim. 2:22

- I. **The truth that the Lord has given to His recovery is the most comprehensive; the materials in the Lord's recovery are rich and plentiful; the whole Bible is open to us in the Lord's recovery—Psa. 119:130; cf. Acts 26:18.**
- II. **“The opening of Your words gives light, Imparting understanding to the simple”—Psa. 119:130:**
 - A. We have to know the truth; the truth is in the Bible, yet the Bible is a book that needs expounding; Luke 24:13-35 is a good illustration of this:
 1. There the Lord Jesus met the two disciples going to Emmaus and "interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself"; they did not know how to understand these things until the Lord Jesus opened their understanding to know all the verses concerning Himself in the Old Testament.
 2. Likewise, in Acts 8:26-39 the eunuch from Ethiopia was reading Isaiah 53 but did not know what it meant until Philip explained to him what was there.
 - B. There is the need of the untying; the ministry does not invent doctrinal teaching but discloses, or unties, what is in the Word—Luke 24:27; Acts 8:26-39.
- III. **Today we have the Recovery Version of the New Testament with footnotes, plus the Life-study messages for the twenty-seven books of the New Testament; this can be called the treasury of the Lord's recovery—Gen. 41:56-57; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 2:4:**
 - A. The Recovery Version is the crystallization of the collection of the knowledge of the divine revelation seen by all the saints throughout the past two thousand years; if we study properly by entering into the text and footnotes of the Recovery Version and by entering into the Life-studies, the church life will undergo a noticeable change—v. 4; 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - B. In order to get the benefit of the purposes of the Recovery Version in full you must dive into the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-study messages—vv. 2, 15.:
- IV. **We need to see the four purposes of publishing the Life-studies and the Recovery Version of the Bible—1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Tim. 1:4; 4:6; Eph. 3:9:**
 - A. The first purpose is to provide the saints with a simple way to understand the truth in the Bible—1 Cor. 2:13; Eph. 1:18; 3:9.
 - B. The second purpose is to help solve the common and difficult problems in the Bible that hinder us from fully understanding the Bible—cf. 2 Pet. 3:16.
 - C. The third purpose is to minister the life supply to the readers—cf. John 10:10; Rom. 8:11; 1 Tim. 4:6.
 - D. The fourth purpose is to bring the children of God into His economy, which is His administration with His plan, and His arrangement to attain His purpose for the fulfillment of the desire of His heart—Eph. 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:4.
 - E. “I encourage the young ones among us to spend adequate time in the Life-study messages and the Recovery Version of the Bible so that they may receive a good foundation in the truth. If they do this, some of them may be able to develop the truth concerning God’s economy by standing on our shoulders, just as we stand on the shoulders of the great teachers of the Bible who have gone before us”—The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984,

vol. 1, "Being Built Up in the Truth and Growing in Life for the Spread of the Lord's Testimony," ch. 4.

V. Spending time in the Word is a necessity of life—John 6:35, 51, 63, 68:

- A. On one hand, our busy schedules may make it difficult to spend time in the Word daily; on the other hand, however, it is actually not difficult to spend time in the Word if we have the proper realization—Matt. 4:4; John 6:63; 2 Tim. 3:16:
 - 1. Even the busiest people still keep one practice—eating every day; everyone finds time to eat because he realizes that eating is a necessity of life—John 6:63.
 - 2. In a sense, we are threatened to eat, for we know that if we do not eat, we will die; in like manner, finding time to spend time in the Word depends on our realization of its importance—Matt. 4:4; Job 23:12.
- B. We need to redeem the time to read the Bible—Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5b:
 - 1. Spending time in the Word of God is always profitable; it is an excellent habit; this habit keeps us in the Lord's presence and saves us from wasting our time—Eph. 5:16.
 - 2. If we redeem the time by reading the Bible, we will grow and be healthy in the spiritual life—Col. 4:5.
- C. We need to pursue with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart—2 Tim. 2:22; Eccl. 4:9-12:
 - 1. Young people need at least one companion; you must consider before the Lord whether you have a real companion in pursuing the Lord; Joshua could have said that Caleb was his companion, and Caleb could have said that Joshua was his companion—Num. 14:30; 32:12.
 - 2. However, it is better to have three or four companions; if we have four companions to support us from each direction, we will not fall, regardless of what storm may come—2 Tim. 2:22; Mark 6:7.

VI. Never forget the race between the hare and the tortoise; the tortoise wins the race; if we keep going slowly, we will win the race; we need to eat regularly, continuously, and slowly; do not go too fast, but go slowly; you will then reach the goal—John 6:56-58.

Links for Getting into the Life-study of the Bible References:

https://nacs.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Getting_into_LS.pdf