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Be a Berean!

The Approach • Heart Postures 4 – 5

Series Goal: Open Hearts with Open Bibles!

“With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.” Psalm 119:10-11

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. Acts 16:14

Approach Your Bible Like a Berean – Acts 17:10-12

With the Heart Posture of an **ACTIVE LEARNER** with a **TEACHABLE HEART!**

1. Approach Your Bible STUDIOUSLY...as an Active Learner!

“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica...” (17:11)

“more noble minded” = “more open-minded” = “more willing to learn”

Be an Active Learner Like the Bereans

➤ **EAGERLY** hear from God and personally **ENGAGE** the Bible for yourself. (Acts 17:11)

Approach Your Bible Studiously with “Berean Bible Study”

➤ **CONSECRATION:** Study from a **LOVE** for God.

“for they received the word with great eagerness...” (17:11)

“We long to learn about what we love.” – Matt Smethurst

➤ **OBSERVATION:** Study to **LOOK** into the Truth.

“examining the Scriptures daily...” (17:11)

1. Ask the 6 questions of an investigative reporter or a great detective: *Who? What? When? Where? How? Why?*

2. Four simple ways you can be a **more active learner** when you approach the Bible.

- Look for repeated words
- Look for logical connections
- Look for people speaking or the narrator explaining.
- Look for what is said about God in relation Himself, to people (saved & unsaved), and to creation.

“You see, but you do not observe!” – Sherlock Holmes to Dr. Watson

3. **INTERPRETATION:** Study to **LEARN** the Truth.

“to see whether these things were so.” (17:11)

- Compare *Scripture with Scripture*
- Compare *Other Translations*
- Use a *Reliable Study Bible* – *The John MacArthur Study Bible*
- Get a *Bible Dictionary* – *New Bible Dictionary and the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*
- Use *Pen & Paper* to write down two things...

“The heart cannot love what the mind does not know.” – Jen Wilkin

4. **APPLICATION:** Study to LIVE the Truth.

“Therefore many of them believed...” (17:12)

5. **COMMUNICATION:** Study for the LOVE of others.

- *“Want to know what God taught me today?”*
- *“Could I share with you what I read in God’s Word today?”*
- *“I read this today in the Bible, what do you think it means?”*
- *“I read this in the Bible today and thought of you...”*

2. Approach Your Bible OBEDIENTLY...with a Teachable Heart!

In the Bible, hearing is always about obeying! And the same is true for reading and studying it as well!

- Obedience is the OPPORTUNITY to glorify God with the **“Rhoda Response.”** Acts 12:13
- Obedience is not OPTIONAL for true believers.

Obedience Is the Difference...

Between a **true disciple** and a **deceived UNBELIEVER**. Matthew 7:21-27

Between an **obedient doer** and a **deceived HEARER**. James 1:22

Between a **sure follower** and a **deceptive LIAR**. 1John 2:3-6

- Obedience is the OUTWORKING of God’s grace in our hearts. Philippians 2:12

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12-13

The Good News About God’s Word

God implants His Word into our hearts and it goes to work from the inside out!

“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21

“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.” Thessalonians 2:13