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Romans 11:33

# INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Ashland Church of Christ 2008



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## Study — How Do We Do It?

### Why Study?

Text: 2Timothy 2:15

**Key Text:** 2Timothy 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (KJV).

#### I. An appeal.

- A. 2Timothy 2:15.
- B. Acts 17:11.
- C. 2Timothy 4:13.
- D. Psalm 119.
- E. Ecclesiastes 12:12.

#### II. The answer.

- A. How are we to know the will of God if we do not study what He has revealed to us?
  - 1. Psalm 19:1-11.
  - 2. Romans 1:16-2:1.
- B. Further, we know that God has given us all that we need in order to live faithfully to Him (2Peter 1:2-4).
- C. The part that we may not like about this is that it requires effort on our part.
  - 1. Often times, we do not like to be told what to do.
  - 2. Further, it takes work and effort (using our brains and logic) to be able to deduce what God’s will is.
- D. We live in a quick-fix society.

1. Memorization is difficult for many of us (Psalm 119:11).
  2. Study is tedious and wearisome (Ecclesiastes 12:12).
  3. Application is even more difficult than knowledge (James 1:22).
  4. The 'quick-fix' is not going to happen in this instance.
- E. Remember, what we work at is that in which we have the most pride.
1. God chose the best approach for us in knowing His will in that He wants us to win (1John 1:4).
  2. Perhaps, this is the approach He chose because we will have to put forth some effort.

### III. An approach.

- A. Understand first what the passage means for the original readers, then focus on what it means for us.
1. "You cannot know what a passage means until you know what it meant" (Fee).
  2. Revelation is a good example of this when one considers the pre-millennial doctrines.
- B. Write down what you know and then try to answer what you do not know.
1. So many immediately consult commentaries.
  2. Try to put it all together.
- C. Know that one biblical passage is not going to directly contradict another (Psalm 51).
1. Thus, if we think a passage is promoting a doctrine we know is wrong, then we know our interpretation is off.
  2. Exegete, do not read into the text.
- D. Context.
1. Read the book through in one setting.
  2. Examine the immediate context of a passage (the chapter and verse divisions are a product of man).
- E. Other biblical passages, dictionaries, consultation, and commentaries.
1. Understand the source of extra-biblical works.
  2. Understand the source of the Bible (2Timothy 3:16).