

Sermon Notes

Lessons Learned: Part 7

July 17th18th, 2021

- **This Week: Baptism – The Book**
- One thing I knew before becoming a Christian was that The Bible was the Christian holy book.
 - o Our Bible (protestant canon) is a compilation of 66 different “books” by about 40 different authors written over a span of more than 1,000 years.
- I knew the company line about the Bible. But I had to go through my own process to trust the Bible.
 - o My first decision was to do 10 years of just the Bible. No commentaries, theologies, etc.
 - I still went to church, Bible studies, conferences, etc. But you get what I’m saying...
 - I did study philosophy to try to get a grasp of logic, the limits of human knowledge, and to try to figure out what exists and what doesn’t. That was helpful for me...
 - o As a new believer, maybe 5 years in, probably 1993, I still didn’t know what to think about the Bible.
 - I believed in God, in miracles, in prayer...I just wasn’t sure about the whole book.
 - I was diligently studying the Bible...but as much as an evaluator as a believer.
 - o I finally got to the point where I knew I would have to choose between fully putting my faith in the Bible or continuing to lean on my own understanding. (you know, from **Proverbs 3:5-6**)
 - I decided to choose faith. Why? I figured I could face God with that decision. **James 4:11**
 - The result was absolutely life changing! Why? I went from **2 Tim 3:7** to **John 8:31-32!**
 - AND I get to be a preacher now!!!
 - o For the preachers out there, don’t do **2 Peter 2:1-3**. Teach them the Bible.
 - o And for everyone, read the Bible for yourself so you are not easily exploited!!
- Today’s Goal: to help people see the Scriptures the right way, engage the right way, so we can apply what we learn to unlock the power and plan of God in our lives, church, and society.
- So, let me give you five things I’ve picked up along the way that I think might be helpful:
- 1) (Peter Haas) Adults Feed Themselves.
 - o As a young Christian you will get a lot out of church events. But that will grow stale.
 - o Then you must make the transition from primarily receiving at church to primarily serving.
 - And that is good! No one’s calling is to get fed. That is essentially burying your talent.
- 2) There is a Bible reading learning curve.
 - o I like the acronym: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!
 - o But you can’t just pick up the Bible and read just anywhere without context.
 - o Start in the New Testament. Gospels, Acts, Letters, Revelation. Then Old Testament.
 - o Some of it is quite confusing. Just let it simmer. The stew will come together in time.
- 3) Balance Inspiration and Discipline.
 - o Mere discipline can create a dry, dead experience. That’s no good.
 - o Waiting for or always needing inspiration can lead to fading away. That’s not good.
 - o Balance the two. Combine video daily devotions with Take 5 if you want an easy place to start!!
- 4) If you miss it by a little, you can be a lot wrong!! **John 18:7-14, John 11:49-53**
 - o Peter and Caiaphas missed it by just a little.
 - o Don’t jump to conclusions. Let Biblical concepts blend, don’t run with partial truth. Don’t throw out a foundational truth (like love or unity) for your pet theological detail. Etc...
- 5) Help others. Parents, do this for your kids. Peers can help each other too. **Hebrews 10:23-25**
 - o Dads out there, love your kids and teach them the Bible as you try to live it out yourself.
- I hope this has helped. Having a good relationship with the Bible is very important.
- Let’s finish up with **2 Timothy 3:14-17**.
 - o I see Bible reading as a big part of Discipleship: learning how to be a Christian.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.