



# Reflections

Like many folks, I have a lot of books in my personal library and some of them look a little worn. Others that I have collected over the years are somewhat tattered from much handling and perhaps even abuse. Covers torn and failing, spines that have separated from the covers, and other signs of overuse. The ones that are most precious, however, are a part of my small Bible collection. Some are full of notes and shadings, others are simply falling apart. After years of being handled, pages turned and frayed around the edges are reminders that to study from them is their primary purpose. It should be a life calling to those who wish to know God.

The Psalmist establishes a standard for how much of our lives should be given to God's Word when he says... ***11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (Ps. 119:11 KJV) 1 148 My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. (Ps. 119:148 NKJ)*** Paul adds yet another dimension to how often the Scripture should be made a part of our life. ***15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15 KJV)*** We often speak of daily devotions, reading the Bible through in a year, even doing some memorization. But do we study for thorough understanding of the great truth and power of the Word? Do we see Jesus in the entire Bible because we see the unity and depth of the Word of God?

Jesus, after His resurrection, met two of His followers on the road to Emmaus. It is a village about 7 miles from Jerusalem. They were confused and dismayed at what had taken place in Jerusalem a few days earlier. He restrained their eyes from knowing Him. They shared with Him their frustration in some detail until He intervened and explained the understanding that they had missed. ***25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. (Lk. 24:25-27 KJV)*** After He went with them to eat a meal, He revealed Himself and then He vanished from their sight. Their response was profound as they recalled how they felt as He opened the Scripture to them; ***32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he***

***opened to us the scriptures (Lk. 24:32 KJV)*** What a study that must have been to have the very author of the Scripture explain it to them. He led them from the law and the prophets to their time and explained that the Word of God was about Him. As it was then it still is today. Jesus is the central figure in all of Scripture. He was, and is, the Creator, the sustainer of the creation, and the one who ultimately offered Himself in flesh and became a perfect sacrifice for the sin of men for those who believe in Him.

Following the pattern of study given by David and Paul can become a wonderful experience. To know the author and finisher of our faith is what study of the Bible by the Holy Spirit is really all about. Many books have been written by men to give their opinions regarding the Scripture, but only the Bible itself is authoritative and inspired of God. Sadly, too many Bibles remain on the shelf gathering dust. The Church could certainly use men and women, boys and girls, who spend so much time reading and studying the Bible that the pages of the Bible show signs of "overuse."

Imagine a church where believers become excited about the discoveries to be found in the pages of Scripture. Imagine a church where many conversations are focused on the wonder of finding new insights that can be shared among the members. Imagine a church where the Word becomes so much a part of our lives that we simply must share what we are learning. Such a church would be a thriving body of believers ever compelled to live as "living sacrifices" in a world that needs Jesus.

Over the years many of us have encountered grandparents who have prayed over Bibles stained with tears, pages and covers worn with use, notes and observations filling the margins, as they ask the Lord to send someone to minister to a loved one living away from Jesus. Many are serving the Lord today having accepted Jesus as their savior as a result of faithful moms and grandmothers who studied and prayed over well-worn Bibles. So, let's study to show ourselves to be approved as a workman rightly dividing the Word. ***12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the***

*joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* (Heb. 4:12 KJV) **Blessings, Doug**