It is critical for all Christians to become students of the Word of God.

When the New Testament was written every believer understood their personal responsibility to walk with God, understand His instructions, and follow His Word. The Bereans in Acts 17:11 are great examples of this kind of attitude. They studied the Word for themselves.

But as church history continued, all of that changed. When Islam took control of Egypt, Europe no longer had writing papyrus. Within one generation, Europe became illiterate. This was the beginning of the Dark Ages. During this period, only the well-educated and religious elite could read or write. There became a huge gap between the clergy and the laity. Sadly, the people were manipulated and used for selfish purposes because they could no longer read and study the Bible for themselves. The true gospel of Christ was nearly lost in the hierarchy of religion.

Remnants of this old religious system still remain today. There are many church attendees who are totally dependent on a pastor to read, teach, and interpret the Scriptures. Though they can now read, they have never learned how to study the Word for themselves. Yet, in John 8:32, Jesus clearly teaches that all believers are to be students of the Word, "If you continue in my Word, then you are truly my disciples and you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free." True followers of Jesus Christ will be students of the Word.

The Silverdale Bible Institute is dedicated to teaching all Christians how to seriously study the Bible for themselves. I’m excited about this ministry because when each of us are personally walking with God and applying His Word to our lives, we will become the Christians and the church that Christ created us to be. So I encourage you to leave the Dark Ages behind and become a student of God’s Word.

Tony Walliser
Senior Pastor
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FORWARD

The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces (Psalm 119:72). What an astounding testimony by the psalmist! Can God’s Word really be better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces? “Yes”, a resounding “Yes”! How? It comes by learning how to personally dig out the treasure of God’s life-changing truth.

Digging Gold from God’s Word – A Mining Guide to Everyday Bible Study can do just that for you. Using the metaphor of mining, Len M. Allen takes you on a journey from looking at the big picture of the treasure map all the way to excavating the wonderful treasures found in God’s Word. Along the way, you will learn how to use the basic tools needed to unearth the nuggets of truth.

Even after a lifetime of studying God’s Word, this study has reinforced to me the simple step-by-step process that removes the blinders to discovering the truth. When this happens, we can see and hear from God how He wants to change our lives to become more like Him and equipped to serve Him.

“…from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15-17). As you learn to dig into the Word of God may you come to know and love the God of the Word!

David Thompson
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