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Evening Service

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Teaching Elder

Steps to Sanctification: Instruction and Conviction

Sanctification is the ongoing process a Christian needs to stay the course in our fallen world. Without it we would be reduced to mere 'confessing' Christians, possessing none of the necessary attributes needed to promote the Kingdom of God.

We are fortunate enough to have Paul's letter instructing Timothy on how to maintain a state of constant sanctification in the face of the great turmoil. His advice is timeless. We must diligently study the scriptures and hone the craft of presenting the Truth within them at all times. This is the only way we can change lives for Jesus.

Having scripture in our mind will bring conviction to our heart, and from our heart flows our speech and actions, in other words, our outward ministry to others. As we can see from Paul's instructions, this is not an easy task for us, because it is not natural, and certainly not in our nature as fallen creatures. Instruction and conviction are so very important to our lives as Christians and are paired together throughout the Bible.

As you listen consider how diligently you work to divide scripture. Then as you read the Word, look for other occurrences of instruction and conviction and prayerfully consider the context you find them in. The rewards will be great.

Notes

The Bible is sacred. We need to have the same mentality about the Bible as God does. It's purpose is to change people.

The Bible is able and powerful. It can bring someone out of darkness into the light.

The spirit intends to change people through the Word.

Don't discount the Old Testament, it was written for our instruction and instruction begets conviction.

The Word is inspired of God. It is 'breathed out' by God and it performs work in those who believe. God inspired the book and it's not our authority to make up interpretations. Scripture interprets scripture.

Studying the Word is profitable and useful. It has a purpose. It shows us where we are compromised. It shows us where we need correction.

Scripture References

2 Timothy 3:1-17 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. (6) For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, (7) always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (8) Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. (9) But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also. (10) Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, (11) persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! (12) Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (13) But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (14) You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, (15) and that 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. (16) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

1 Corinthians 10:1-12 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. (5) Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. (7) Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." (8) Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. (9) Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (10) Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Proverbs 4:1-19 Hear, *O* sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding, (2) For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. (3) When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, (4) Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; (5) Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. (6) "Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. (7) "The beginning of wisdom *is*: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding. (8) "Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her. (9) "She will place on your head a garland of grace; She

will present you with a crown of beauty." (10) Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many. (11) I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. (12) When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble. (13) Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life. (14) Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil men. (15) Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on. (16) For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; And they are robbed of sleep unless they make *someone* stumble. (17) For they eat the bread of wickedness And drink the wine of violence. (18) But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day. (19) The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.