

***Intro:***

READ WLC Q&A 157.

Main Point of Text: God speaks in a way to put man in his place so that man would be in a place to hear and be heard by God.

Sermon Point: *Hold God's Word in high regard.*

***Move 1: Zealously apply yourself to the Scriptures.***

LC: "with diligence, and attention to the matter and scope of them":

- Acts 17:10-11: Bereans more noble because they "searched" the Scriptures to confirm teachings: T. Watson, Greek to make a curious and critical search; meditate. J.G. Vos: "grasp their true meaning".
- Acts 8:30, 34: Eunuch reading Isaiah 53:7-8: who does He speak of? Self or other? Jesus! Jn. 5:39: *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me*; T. Watson, Greek. Word for "search": search for a vein of silver. Hard work, not all willing.
- Prov. 2:1-6: To receive wisdom out of God's mouth, mine for it like silver/hidden treasures.

***Move 2: Reverently apply the Scriptures to yourself.***

LC: "with meditation, application, self-denial, and prayer": *O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.* (Ps. 119:97). *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.* (Js. 1:5). Ps. 1:1-2; Ps. 119:18.

***Move 3: Thirst for and drink of Christ's Word so you can spill over with His living waters.***

LC: "with **desire** to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them"; Deut. 17:18-20. So Ps. 119:11 takes effect. 1 Sam. 15:22.

***Move 4: Ask Christ to persuade and enlighten your eyes to His Word.***

LC: "with a firm persuasion that they are the very word of God": Against Barthianism/neo-orthodoxy. 2 Pet. 1:19-21; Luke 24:45: LC: "with a firm persuasion that ... he only can enable us to understand them:"

***Move 5: Be impressed with God, and that He cares to communicate with you.***

LC: “with a firm persuasion that they are the very word of God”: LC: “The holy scriptures are to be read with an high and reverent esteem of them”:

- Psalm 119:127-128: ... *I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts* ... Lit. Heb., “all instructions all”. Esteem: Heb., “make straight”.
- Isaiah 66:
  - Vs. 1-2a: Typical prophetic intro to induce listening. Impresses us w/ His immensity.
  - Vs. 2b: We ought to marvel He even gives us notice (Ps. 8:4). He only does the contrite who respectfully hang on His every word. Look up to Him/Words, He will “look” on (regard) you.

***Conclusion:***

Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12. Psalm 119:18.

***Hold God’s Word in high regard.***