### Lesson 5# MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD

Scripture memory is an important aid to spiritual growth because it helps you begin to think as God thinks. Your concepts, values, and priorities become like His. You are cleansed because you begin to pay attention to your life in a new way. *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word” (Ps. 119:9, RSV).*

You begin to see life from a new viewpoint: *“When I think of thy ways, I turn my feet to thy testimonies” (Ps. 119:59, RSV).* Solomon says it still another way*, “Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established” (Prov. 4:26).*

It is through Scripture memory that your thoughts become increasingly pure. Scripture memory is a strong deterrent against sin. *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps. 119:11).*

To enjoy the fullest benefit from Scripture memory, you must purpose in your heart to make it an important part of your daily life*. “I will delight myself in the statutes; I will not forget thy word” (Ps. 119:16).*

Like eating, sleeping, or resting, Scripture memory will soon become a special and enjoyable part of your day. Learning to meditate upon the truths you have memorized will become one of the most satisfying experiences of your life. *“I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments” (Ps. 119:7).*

**Retention Through Sharing**

The best way to retain Scripture is to share it with others. The first step may well be to include your family members in Scripture memory*. “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up” (Deut. 6:6-7).*

Discuss your verses during the day with Christian friends. Use them in your opportunities to witness for Christ. Meditate upon your Scripture memory verses during your personal daily “quiet time”. Review them in your discipleship training sessions.

**Building Confidence into Your Life**

Time and again God will bring Scripture to your remembrance as you counsel with a friend or encourage a loved one. Each time this occurs your desire to memorize Scripture will be reinforced. You will gain a new boldness and a sense of personal confidence in your ability to minister to others.

**Team Work Helps**

Pray to find a Christian friend who is also interested in memorizing Scripture; then work together as a team to help one another grow. Encourage each other to be faithful in learning two new verses each week. Call out the references and listen to your partner as he or she reviews the verses of the past eight weeks. Consistently review your verses for two months; then they will be with you for a lifetime!

**Paul-Timothy Relationships**

If you are being privileged to study with a more mature Christian who is helping you grow spiritually, be sure to pray for one another asking God to keep you disciplined in this important area of your “Paul-Timothy” or “Paulette-Timothette” relationship.

**Learning from Jesus’ Example**

No one in history has had a better knowledge of the Bible than the Lord Himself. He quoted Scripture to overcome temptation, to explain salvation, and to convict His spiritual antagonists. He is our perfect example! His ready knowledge of Scripture was one of the greatest reasons for the immediate effectiveness of both His public and private ministries.

**Memorizing by Topics**

Paul long ago gave the original concept for this approach to Scripture to Timothy. It is my conviction that it remains the most useful and practical approach that we have been shown over the centuries. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).*

The fact that “all scripture is [inspired] of God” should provide the strongest possible motivation for us to hide it in our hearts. Beyond this, however, memorized Scripture is of great practical value in our daily lives. It teaches us what to believe (doctrine), it shows where we have missed the mark (reproof), it re-establishes us on the right path (correction), and it equips us to experience the very best in life (instruction in righteousness). The result is a man or woman of God who is “thoroughly furnished unto all good works”.

**How to Memorize Scripture**

**I. Here are some helpful suggestions.**

A. Memorize those verses which speak to you personally; this makes it natural and easy.

 B. Use your extra and “wasted” minutes to hide God’s Word in your heart.

 1. Men, while…

 (a) shaving

 (b) showering

 (c) driving

 (d) traveling by car, train, plane, or bus

 (e) waiting for appointments

 (f) walking or exercising

 (g) before falling asleep at night

 2. Women, while…

 (a) fixing your hair

 (b) brushing your teeth

 (c) driving

 (d) cleaning house

 (e) preparing meals

 (f) washing the dishes

B. After you memorize the "basic verses on salvation", select verses which you have marked during your daily “quiet time”.

C. Memorize two or more verses each week as a normal part of your Christian life.

 D. Memorize bite-size portions! Notice individual words and phrases.

 E. Always learn your verse correctly. Strive for perfection!

 F. Write the verse out several times as you think about the meaning of the words.

G. Say the verse aloud repeatedly so that you become familiar with the sound of the words.

H. Pray about the verses you memorize asking God to enable you to apply them in your personal life.

 I. Claim by faith the promises in the verses you memorize.

J. Always give the reference before and after each verse you quote in your daily review.

 K. Make a game out of Scripture memory with your family and friends.

 L. Put a tune to the verse.

M. Review each verse for eight weeks, and it will become a permanent part of your life!

**MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD**

Basic Verses on Salvation That Every Christian Should Know

A. *Romans 3:23 "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God".*

B. *Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord".*

C. *Hebrews 9:27 "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment".*

D. *Romans 5:8 "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us".*

E. *Ephesians 2:8-9 "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast".*

F. *John 1:12 "As many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name".*

G. *Romans 10:9-10 "If thou shalt confess with thy mount the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made into salvation".*