

The Personal Nature of Bible Study

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I believe that the study of the Bible (“Bible study”) is an extremely personal matter. Paul told Timothy, “*study to shew thyself approved.*” He was not advocating group, but personal Bible study.

Sometimes believers will gather together for what they call “Bible Study.” The whole concept of “Bible Study” as a meeting is as foreign to the Scriptures as having “Worship” as a meeting. I believe “Bible Study” as a meeting is a man-made religious invention to divert from the real study of Scripture, just as “Worship” as a meeting diverts from true worship.

There are only three occurrences of the word “study” in the Bible (Isn’t that Amazing? Wouldn’t you have thought that there would have been many more?), and two of the three of them are Paul’s. These two instructions to study could not possibly be any more personal or private in nature:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

“And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you” (I Thessalonians 4:11).

I do not believe that the divine purpose of the gathering of believers was ever designed to be centered on what we commonly refer to as “Bible Study.” The study of the Scriptures is not an occasional group activity. It is an extremely personal thing.

We each have a responsibility to become acquainted with the Scriptures on a personal level. We can’t hide in a sea of faces at a “Bible Study.” Even those Bereans who gathered to hear Paul, the Apostle to the gentiles, the divinely appointed spokesman for the Body of Christ, would “*prove all things,*” by “*searching the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*”

This is what set the Bereans apart as noble:

“These [the saints of Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Taken from the *Bible Student's Notebook*[™], a weekly Bible study publication available in two formats (electronic and printed)

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