

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #2

S#1.

Meditation As Worship

S#2.

Text : **Nehemiah 8: 1-9 ; II Timothy 2: 1-7**

A. Last lesson we discussed the importance of private worship to keep one from drifting away from God.

S#3.

1. We need daily worship for the same reason a ship needs a mooring line.
 - a. The forces of wind and currents push ships away from the peer.
 - b. No matter how large the ship, a sturdy mooring line is essential.
2. No matter how strong one's faith may be, he needs to be moored to God.
 - a. This is why God instructed us to put forth effort to keep from drifting away.
Heb. 2: 1 – For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.
 - b. Sometimes impressive teachers come along and lead Christians away.
I Tim. 6: 21– ...the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" — **21** which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.
 - c. Daniel was a man of great faith, but also a very important and powerful government official, yet he was dogmatic about maintaining his daily worship.
Dan. 6: 10 – Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

S#4.

S#5.

S#6.

B. Those things that indicate one is drifting away demonstrate the need for mooring

1. One gets preoccupied with life and becomes neglectful of the word.
2. Drifters do not set aside special times to pray each day. (*other than table & bed*)
3. They lose their sensitivity to the gospel message.
4. Drifters do not spend time with the brethren outside the assembly.
5. When one is hesitant to trust God to control his life, he has already started drifting.
6. When one is no longer repulsed by the sin of this world and in his life he has drifted.

C. God came to earth to save us; now He urges us to respond to His love.

S#7.

1. **James 4: 8** – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
2. If you are don't feel close to God, it is not Him who drifted away from you.

D. Our lesson will come primarily from one verse in *II Timothy 2* :

1. **Vs. – 1** ... Be strong. (*Timothy was timid and relatively young.*)
2. **Vs. – 2** ... Pass on what you have learned.
3. **Vs. – 3** ... Even when it is hard, always do your duty.
4. **Vs. – 4** ... Stay focused like a soldier; be single-minded.
5. **Vs. – 5** ... Stay in training like an athlete, keep learning.
6. **Vs. – 6** ... Work hard and trust God like a farmer.
7. **Vs. – 7** – Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

E. With this lesson we want to see only 4 brief points about meditation.**S#8.**

1. Meditation is commanded.
2. Meditation has benefits.
3. There is a reward for meditating.
4. A few applications

I. Meditation is commanded.**S#9.****A. *II Tim. 2: 7* – Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.****S#10.**

1. Consider : noieō
 - a. to perceive with the mind, to have understanding
 - b. **to think upon**, heed, **ponder**, consider
2. Timothy was commanded to meditate on the things that he was taught.
 - a. This is a present active imperative, it's a command. **“be applying your mind”**
 - b. It requires an ongoing activity. Don't read too hastily, read to comprehend.

B. This says Christians are commanded to go beyond just learning facts.**S#11.**

1. When we read scripture we are instructed to let our minds dwell on the text.
2. When we hear lessons we do more than take notes and learn the points.
 - a. We must think about what we were taught.
 - b. We must develop sufficient comprehension to pass on what we learn.
3. Brethren often don't feel comfortable to pass it on because they have not spent enough time thinking about it to feel comfortable to talk about it.

C. The concept of meditation is nothing new.

1. **Psa. 1:1** – How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! S#12.
2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3** He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.
 - a. Vs. **1** ... He doesn't allow himself to be influenced by evil people.
 - b. Vs. **2** ... **How** does he resist ? Meditates on God's will.
 - c. Vs. **3** ... He stands strong and prospers.
 - d. How can one meditate day and night ? Cf – **I Thes. 5: 17** – Pray without ceasing.
2. **Psa. 119: 97** – O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. S#13.
 - a. Results ... Vs. **98** – Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,
 - b. Vs. **99** – I have more insight than all my teachers,
For Your testimonies are my meditation.

D. What's involved in meditating on God's word ?S#14.

1. I think about what it means.
 - a. **NOT** ... What does this mean to me ?
 - b. *What is God communicating to me ?*
 - c. Every time I read or hear a passage I see something I missed. (*Well w/ no bottom.*)
2. Think about it in terms of how I can apply it in my life.
 - a. We too often listen like one who is auditing a class. (*No papers to write, no tests*)
 - b. **John 13: 17** – If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
3. I think about it as a part of my worship.
 - a. I must think about the beauty of His word.
 - b. One must think about its rightness. *It is always relevance and right.*
 - c. What it means to me in terms of adoring God. *Meditation shows Him adorable.*
4. Think about it as to how I can pass it on to someone else.
 - a. Don't listen to apply it to someone else.
 - b. We apply it to our own self and then pass it on to some lost soul.
(*One problem is that we don't realize people are lost without the gospel.*)
 - c. Scripture has a meaning on its own ... then apply to self and to others.

II. Meditation has benefits.**S#15.****A. II Tim. 2: 7 – Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.****S#16.**

1. Understanding : (synesis) Bringing things together, a putting together in the mind, hence: understanding, practical **discernment**, intellect
 - a. At Pittsburg there is a “synesis” of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers to form the Ohio river which will eventually “synesis” with the Mississippi.
 - b. This discernment, understanding is the goal of all our study of the scriptures.
Phil. 1: 9 – And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent,
2. What merges in meditation ? *Facts and understanding.*
 - a. One uses his intellect to learn the facts and through meditation God gives insight.
 - b. It is a transferring of knowledge from the head to the heart.

B. The Lord must be the one to give you understanding / discernment.**S#18.**

1. **II Tim. 2: 7 – for the Lord will give you understanding**
2. How does the Lord do that ? **Thru the Holy Spirit** as you meditate on His word.
3. **Acts 2: 38 ...** Every Christian receives the indwelling of the **H.S.** at baptism.
 - a. This is not a miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The Holy Spirit uses many things to affect, to open hearts ... life, teachers, study.

C. Do you pray and ask God to give you discernment ?

1. Before you read of study ?
2. Before you hear a bible lesson or sermon ?
3. Do you pray for others to have understanding ? **As a group**

III. There is a reward promised for meditating.**S#19.****A. II Tim. 2: 7 – Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.****S#20.**

1. If you obey His command to meditate on His word, He will give you understanding.
2. Other than inspiration, how could Paul be so sure ? He understood how God works.

B. Will we all reach the same level of understanding this side of Heaven ? No.

1. God can fill all buckets, but we all have different sized buckets.
2. Having a small bucket is no excuse for the lack of effort. **God rejects ALL excuses.**

C. If you will give yourself to meditation on His word, God Himself will teach you.

1. The Lord is your teacher, but He uses teachers to communicate to you.
2. There is no learning without effort. You must read, study, pray, listen.

IV. A few points of application.**S#21.****A. For listeners****S#22.**

1. Meditation is a vital part of spiritual learning.
2. Sermons don't end with the invitation song. *One must think about it afterward.*
3. Understanding is different than a knowledge of facts.
4. We are dependent upon the Lord to give us greater insight. *Ask Him. Don't be proud.*
5. Our knowledge is never separated from our study of the scriptures, but must go beyond a mere technical approach. (*Facts don't = closeness to God*)

B. For teachers**S#23.**

1. I can teach facts, but I can't give understanding. *Only the Lord gives understanding.*
2. I must remember that the Lord's teaching goes on after my teachings.
3. We must be confident in God to work in His time.
(*Isa. 55: 11* – So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.)

S#24.**CONCLUSION :****A. Our goal is to lay up God's word in our heart, but how do we do that ?****S#25.**

1. *Deut. 11: 18* – You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.
2. How is this accomplished ?

Psa. 119: 15 – I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways.**S#26.***16* I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.**S#27.****B. Our objective is to have God's word so integrated in our mind that it guides us.****S#28.****C. We want to be that person that always instinctively knows the right thing to do.****D. We want to have drawn so near to God that we are walking with Him.****S#29.***James 4: 8* – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Lesson Text :**Nehemiah 8: 1-8**

1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 4 Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand. 5 Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, " Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place. 8 They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

II Timothy 2: 1-7

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. 7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.