

# Built By the Lord

By Edwin Crozier  
Adapted by Ron Vick

## Chapter 17

# Family Bible Study

### I. The Wise man

- A. The Wise man built his house upon the rock... And the wise man's house stood firm. Do you remember this children's song?
- B. Matthew 7:24-27
- C. Psalm 127:1 – "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."
  - 1. The Lord gave an instruction manual & guides us in how to build our home.
  - 2. When the rain, floods, and winds come against the house, it will stand firm.
- D. Divided homes and divorce are rampant.
  - 1. Regrettably, people who claim to be Christians do not seem to fare any better than non-Christians.
  - 2. This means too many Christian homes are not being built on God's word.
  - 3. Psalm 119:9 – If we want to have purity in our families, Bible study must be the foundation for our homes.

### II. Life-Changing Bible Study

- A. Illustration of playing an instrument → To be proficient, keep it out and use it.
- B. Bible study - This same advice applies to Bible study as well.
  - 1. There is casual study and intentional study. We need both!
  - 2. Like that guitar, our Bibles need to be out where we can easily get to them.
  - 3. Bible reading is NOT Bible study.
  - 4. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 shows the pattern for life-changing Bible study.
- C. 2 Timothy 3:14-17  
Paul shows three attitudes we must maintain in order to properly study the Bible
  - 1. **First**, we must recognize the writings as sacred.  
God's word is sacred → John 6:68 – "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
  - 2. **Second**, we must recognize the scriptures are able to give us wisdom leading to salvation.
  - 3. **Third**, we must recognize the Scriptures are God-breathed.
    - a. With any other book we can take the parts we like and discard the rest.
    - b. 2 Peter 1:20-21 → We are not allowed our own private interpretation.  
We must uncover and follow God's interpretation.
- D. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 → **a four-step approach** to life-changing study.
  - 1. **Step 1**: Teaching
    - a. What do I learn from this study?
      - 1) Who wrote it?
      - 2) To whom were they writing?
      - 3) Is there any parallel passage?

- 4) How does this fit into the Biblical context?
  - b. We use Bible study tools: dictionaries, concordances, and commentaries.
  - c. This step should always begin and end with getting into the Bible text.
2. **Step 2**: Reproof
  - a. To truly have a life-changing study... we ask...
    - 1) Where do I fall short according to this study?
    - 2) Reproof = expose error
  - b. The Bible gives us a perfect model for us to compare ourselves.
  - c. It isn't enough for us to simply learn what the passage teaches; we must lay the text alongside our lives and see where we fall short.
3. **Step 3**: Correction
  - a. We ask ourselves, "What must I change based on this study?"
  - b. "Correction" – Setting upright again what has been toppled over.
  - c. If we have fallen short, what must we do to correct this?
4. **Step 4**: Training in Righteousness – This must result in a change of action. This must be more than an intellectual understanding.
5. Make that change – Ephesians 4:20-24

### III. Passing the Torch

- A. One of the great reasons for the family habit of worship, in all of its forms including Bible study, is to pass our commitment to serve God to our children.
- B. We need to actually study WITH our kids.
- C. Two principles
  1. **Principle #1** – Use the Bible – Kids Bible stories have their place. But they are not the Bible.
    - a. Read the Bible to them. Make it fun!
    - b. As they get older, show them how to use dictionaries, concordances, and commentaries.
    - c. Use the Bible for correction, Eph. 4:25, Rev. 21:8, Eph. 6:1-3
    - d. Psalm 119:11 → Have your children memorize the Bible.
  2. **Principle #2** – Go from milk to meat – Hebrews 5:11-14
    - a. Bible learning is a growth process.
    - b. Start with stories and progress to the "Why" of the Bible.
    - c. Finally, they should be able to say what they believe and why.
    - d. 1 Peter 3:15
- D. We are what we repeatedly do
  1. Let's be disciples, students of God's word.
  2. Develop the habit of family Bible study and watch your home be built by the Lord.

### IV. Today's Response

- A. What book will you and your family start studying this week?
- B. What did you learn about Bible study from 2 Timothy 3:14-17?