

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?