

Time for Me to Cease Biblical Research

I grew up in the Methodist church where Bible study was highly prized. This was amplified when I was in the Pentecostal system where I was told that Bible study and verse memorization showed that I was a good Christian in God's sight. This method for gaining God's approval came from a literal interpretation of the English translations of the Bible without any understanding of cultural and textual context. The imperative for Bible study was promulgated from these references:

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

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) – *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction¹ in righteousness,*

It wasn't until I read other translations that I realised what "Study to shew thyself approved unto God" was really saying. Here are some examples:

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) – *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15 (PHILLIPS²) – *For yourself, concentrate on winning God's approval, on being a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, and who knows how to use the word of truth to the best advantage.*

What a wake-up! It's not about studying the Bible but about being a son whose life Father approves of and also about being able to understand and apply what he has spoken to them.

In regards to "all scripture", it was interesting when I understood that at the time of Paul's writing to Timothy there was no NT, only scripture in the form of the OT. The NT was canonized centuries later. Paul was only referring to the Hebrew scriptures while he also sanctioned sound doctrine³.

On the 3rd September this year I received instruction in my prophetic journaling that released me from the vestiges of Bible-focussed learning. For the past 5 years Jesus, our King, has been my oversight and trainer. I have relied on him to supply teaching, inspiration, revelation and prophetic messages each and every day. As a consequence, I have grown in spiritual understanding faster than I have every done before. This particular journal entry instructed me to:

"Learn from me. Learn with me. Learn through me, not your own mental capacity and reasoning. To completely renew your mind I need your submission to my processes. Nothing can occur until you do. Leave being in control. Leave looking at your research and teaching ability and learn from me – me only. Not even the Bible has everything I want you to know. Learn from me, not "of" me. Yes, that's crucial. I've been your tutor for many years now, but there's still much to learn. Much you need to be reprogrammed in and much knowledge of the spirit realm and your role in my Kingdom."

It's a scary thing to be told to stop relying on the Bible, which has been your main source of knowledge and reference since you were sixteen. However, like Peter, I will 'walk on water' and that will take courage and trust as I move into the realm of unknown knowledge. Jesus is my standard to assess things by and he is my teacher. I look forward to exponential growth in knowledge and understanding, and a more rapid maturation.

Therefore, like Jesus who very rarely quoted scripture (according to the Gospel records) I'll need to concentrate on communicating what the Spirit gives me to other people's spirits. This means I'll be writing to their spirits without biblical references, just as I do when I speak. The downside will be very little acceptance.

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6-9-2018

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1 – Meaning: *training, discipline*

2 – J.B. Phillips New Testament

3 – 1 Timothy 4:13