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Section: Doctrine of the Word of God (Bibliology)

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q26. How is the Bible to be read and heard?**

The Bible is to be read and heard with joy, diligence, respect, carefulness, and prayer, that we may accept sound doctrine with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives. In it we find God’s revealed will; therefore, we study it to know, trust, love, and obey God.

* **With Joy**

**The 1689 Confession of Faith:** “The whole counsel of God concerning everything essential for his own glory and man’s salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly stated or by necessary inference contained in the Holy Scriptures.”

**Psalm 1:1-2** Blessed is the man [whose] ... delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

**1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

**Psalm 119:97** Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

* **With Diligence**

**Joshua 1:8** “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.”

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

**Matthew 13:44** “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

* **With Respect**

**John 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

* **With Carefulness**

**Joshua 1:8** “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.”

**Psalm 119:11**I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**Luke 6:45** “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

**1 Timothy 4:3-4** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

**Romans 10:1-2** Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

* **With Prayer**

**James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all ...

**The 1689 Confession of Faith:** “We acknowledge that the inward illumination of the Spirit of God is necessary for a saving understanding of what is revealed in the Word.”

* **So We May Accept Sound Doctrine with Faith, Store It in Our Hearts, and Practice It in Our Lives**

**Psalm 119:104-105**Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

* **With Faith**

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Matthew 6:21** “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

* **In It, We Find God’s Revealed Will**

**The 1689 Confession of Faith:** “The whole counsel of God concerning everything essential for his own glory and man’s salvation, faith, and life **is either explicitly stated or by necessary inference** contained in the Holy Scriptures”

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom …

* **Therefore, We Study It to Know, Trust, Love, and Obey God**

**Matthew 28:19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations … *teaching them to observe* all that I have commanded you …