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Spiritual Disciplines: Bible Memorization

Teacher: Rob Barber

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Memorizing Scripture Compared to Knowing Doctrine**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

It’s not that memorizing Scripture is more important than knowing doctrine; it’s that memorizing Scripture helps us remember and apply more doctrine, and it keeps our doctrine grounded in the authority of God’s word.

* **Memorization in the Bible**

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

**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. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

* **Benefits of Memorization** 
  + **Conformity to Christ**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

* **Daily triumph over sin**

**Psalm 119:9, 11** How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word ... I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

* **Comfort and counsel for people you love**

**Proverbs 25:11** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

* **Offering correction and loving rebuke**

**2 Timothy 4:2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

**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.

**Philippians 4:13** (NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**1 Corinthians 2:12-13** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

* **Communicating the gospel to unbelievers**

**1 Peter 3:15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

**Matthew 28:18-20**And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

* **Communion with God in the enjoyment of His Person and ways**

**John Piper**: “Storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to him as he really is.”

**Psalm 103:8-14** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

* **Practical Application**

The greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. So when we are exercising our minds to memorize what God has said, we are expressing our love for Him in one of the practical ways He has commanded us to.

**Hebrews 12:11** For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it

**See “Tips for Memorization” handout**

**Tips for Memorization**

* **Practice Consistently**
* **Learn Your Skills**
* **Repetition**
* **Review, Read, Recite, Repeat**
* **Apps**
* **Meditation**

**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.

* **Writing It Out**
* **Recording**
* **Encourage One Another**
* **Be Encouraged**

**Psalm 119:97-104** Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.