



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Collecting Wisdom from God's Word (2Timothy 3:16)

MARCH 20, 2013

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Please note that these study summaries will be intermittent over the next few weeks due to our participation in the Kansas Prayer Breakfast and the changing legislative schedule. What is most important is that God's Word does not change and will be a source of strength for your entire lifetime!

INTRODUCTION

What is your source of direction in life's journey? Cultural mores or customs differ greatly between countries and regions within these nations. Customs also shift over the years. In one generation, public smoking has become intolerable while cursing in public has become a free-speech right. Laws, rules of behavior do change. In earlier days, a child who misbehaved in public might receive a stinging swat from the attending parent. Today that parent could be charged with child abuse and face lifetime sanctions by the judicial system. Effective leaders have a high respect for the law and are savvy in cultural issues. They also are accountable to a higher standard. God's Word is durable, never changing.

THRIVING FOR A LIFETIME

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.¹

You join thousands of generations of those who have drawn from God's Word to endure the challenges of life. Consider the testimony of David, Israel's most popular king: ***"If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction"*** (Psalm 119:92). Many consider Solomon to be the wisest and most successful king in history. He taught of God's wisdom: ***"By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; by me princes govern, as do nobles and all righteous judges. I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity"*** (Proverbs 8:15-18). How do we gain this power, this wisdom from the Scriptures? The prescription is simple. **The focus is on application!**

STEPS TO EMPOWERMENT

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, in order that the person of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.²

Higher education is often faulted for operating as if **telling is teaching** and **remembering is learning**. The key to empowerment is our **focus on principles** and their **application in life**. Consider the following steps:

1. Read Scripture with a pencil in your hand. Notate what you see that is applicable to your current need or situation. Those proficient with electronic versions might copy and paste in a notepad.
2. Reflect on your notation(s), and write out your application or your profound thoughts along with the associated Scripture. Continue this process daily if at all possible. Add a title to each entry to enable you to come back and review these by topic.
3. Strive to apply this newfound wisdom in your thoughts and actions. The very best way to reinforce consistent action is to commit the applicable Scripture verse to memory. Try to include the address or location in your mental data file.
4. Most discipleship leaders prescribe key Bible verses for the early focus. This requires much more commitment. Lonnie Berger, of the Navigators, prescribes six beginning verses.³ He includes the 2Timothy 3:16-17 passage printed above. Those new to Bible study might start with a red letter edition, reflecting Jesus' words. Romans or Ephesians are also good for starters. 1Timothy has a leadership focus.

A PRAYER

Father God, Your Word promises wisdom to those who seek it. Help me to gain this wisdom as I serve in the assignment where You have placed me. Empower me with understanding. I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen!

¹ The Holy Bible, New American Standard Version. (Lockman) 1995.

² The Holy Bible, Lexham English Bible. (Logos Bible Software) 2012.

³ Lonnie Berger, Every Man A Warrior – Book One (NavPress) 2011. p49.