

## The Bible: God's Discipleship Manual | Application

### **READ: Matthew 28:20**

By using the word “everything” here, Christ is all-inclusive concerning His instructions; nothing is to be overlooked in His commands. God's commands are to be specifically and fully obeyed.

### **Titus 2:11-15**

Apart from God's truth, a person cannot come to a saving knowledge of Jesus or obtain victory over temptation and sin.

Teaching others to understand Scripture will equip them to more easily identify the lies presented by the world and help them distinguish godly behavior from worldly passions. Therefore, we should be prepared to diligently teach others to live according to God's Word.

 **WRITE:** What is the difference between reading God's Word and studying it?

 What practical steps are you daily taking to grow in accurate knowledge, understanding, and application of God's Word? (Be specific.)

### **Matthew 7:13-14**

Notice that the gates and roads in these verses are distinct. One represents the way of Jesus and the other the way of the world. Since we cannot possibly travel two roads at the same time, we must choose one path over the other.

- The gate that leads to destruction is broad, not only because of the numerous worldly influences but also due to the large number of people taking that path. To those pursuing the flesh, the broad road appears to be easier to travel; however, it leads to destruction.
- Although the narrow gate is not obstructed from view, fewer people choose to take it. The narrow gate leads to Jesus because He is the only way to God the Father (**John 14:6**). The narrow road represents the path of righteousness and leaves little room for the things of this world.

### **Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:7; 1 Peter 2:2**

Be mindful of the world's influence on those you disciple. The world is influencing some to believe that sinful behavior is relative to a given situation, and/or that closely following God's commands is legalistic, a disregard of His grace and mercy. Complete surrender to Jesus requires one to choose the narrow road of obedience that pleases Him.

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** In what practical ways are you becoming increasingly prepared to lovingly instruct others that God's standard of truth is absolute?

## 2 Timothy 2:15

As with any tool, learning to use God's Word correctly takes dedication and persistent effort. In the same way a person must learn to correctly handle a power tool to prevent harming himself or others working nearby, believers must learn to correctly handle the powerful Word of God.

## Deuteronomy 4:2; Hebrews 4:12

 What is the danger in trying to make truth more palatable?

Only the Bible is powerful enough to convict a person's heart, prompting them to repent and change undesired thought patterns and behaviors. Therefore, God's Word, rather than our own words, should be used in making disciples.

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Consider the following statements.

- Persuasive words can help temporarily condition behavior, but only the power of God's Word can transform behavior.
- Personal opinion is based on human theory and is, therefore, faulty. The Bible is absolute truth and is, therefore, eternally trustworthy.
- Advice based on human psychology honors man. Biblical counsel based on the Word of God glorifies Him.

 **ACTION:** Ask God to enable you to establish the habit of consistently sharing biblical precepts by exchanging your own words for His absolute truth.

 What potential influence could this habit have in the lives of people you encounter? (Be specific.)

## Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 4:2

Jesus' disciples had each experienced the power of the gospel. As a result, they set themselves apart to Christ and the work of His kingdom. They didn't operate in their own authority, but on the authority of God's Word, being careful to speak and present it correctly. In doing so, they walked in obedience to God, leaving the results to Him. In turn, if we, too, convey God's Word under His authority, we can trust that He will use it for His glory.

 As you prepare to share God's Word with others, what will it look like for you to do so under His authority?

 What will it look like for you to trust the Lord with the results?

 **Isaiah 55:10-11**

Just as we cannot always see the immediate effects of moisture on developing plants, we may not see the immediate effects of God's Word taking root in the heart of those we are discipling. Regardless of whether we witness immediate spiritual fruit through correctly communicating Scripture to others, we can trust it will fulfill God's intended purpose.

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)

Teaching others to live according to truth is training them to be thoroughly equipped, lacking nothing, for every good work!