**Why We Study**

August 7th, 2016

Most of us can probably remember studying hard(ly?) for a big test in school. Whether you were one who studied diligently for weeks before or an all-night crammer, my question isn’t how you did on the test. My question is how much do you remember now?

I was actually telling someone just last week how during preaching school one test required me to memorized all the kings of Israel & Judah, write them down in chronological order, and also indicate which ones were bad & which ones were good. I’ll admit, I think I actually remembered maybe only 2/3 of the names, and I definitely didn’t get them in order. What I did remember flew out the window the next day as I prepared for the next test.

Why didn’t this stick? My main theory is that quite honestly at the time it didn’t really matter to my spiritual life the names & order of all the kings. However, if you ask me to give you an outline or preach on a whim from 1st John I’m all over it. Why? Because it was while at Sunset studying 1st John that I truly committed my life to the Lord, and I soaked up everything in that book. There’s a good chance that if I could look back at every Bible study or random Biblical discussion I’ve had that 1st John would come up because it’s truly become a part of my heart & life.

The Hebrews were told to take the words of God & put them on their heart (Deut. 6:6) and this wish is reflected again in Jeremiah 31:33 when God says He’ll write the law on the hearts of His people. I think this is why Jesus was able to resist sin like He did, not just because He *knew* the commands of God, but because knowledge had become a part of His heart & life. When we study, is it only for knowledge, or do you truly want to take God’s Word and make it a part of your heart, your life, & your walk? Study doesn’t begin with knowing techniques or reading commentaries, but first with a desire to know ***and*** live God’s Word; to know not only the right answer in our minds but know what God says in our hearts. In essence, God’s Word is to become our conscience – it’s to be that important & that is that powerful. What do you study for? Grace to you.

**Philippians 1: Worthy**

August 7th, 2016

**Philippians 1:1-11 – Paul’s Prayer**

* What words stand out to you in Paul’s prayer of thankfulness for the church at Philippa?

**The Church**

* How would you describe the people who first made up the Philippian church?

**Philippians 1:12-30**

* Is your definition & Paul’s definition of when & why to rejoice different? How?
* How can we say our lives are worthy of the gospel?

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