

The Articles of
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Making God's Word an Important Part of our Lives

Why do Christians need continual study? Are three church services sufficient? God intended His word to be an important part in the lives of His people. His love for us is demonstrated in the fulfillment and satisfaction derived as a result of obeying His commandments. He knew the value of His precepts and the benefits we would receive from meditating on and applying His laws in our lives.

Young people need to keep God's word first. Work, school, family, and friends are important and beneficial, however; they must never take precedence over our personal relationship with God. We make time to do the things that are important to us, but often we are "too busy" or "too tired" to study God's word. We find time to do our homework, associate with our friends, participate in our extracurricular activities; but, when it comes to studying God's word we allow things to distract us. Sadly, this is common among young Christians; they do not understand the value of constant reflection on God's word. In truth, the reverse should happen: Bible study should be a priority over homework, friends -- everything.

In the Bible, God gives examples of those who longed for the Word and constantly considered His teachings. First, King David is the archetypal example of one who daily meditated on God's laws. *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You... I will meditate on Your precepts and regard Your ways. I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word... My soul is crushed with longing after your ordinances at all times... Your servant meditates on Your statutes. Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors"* (Psalms 119:9-24). This entire passage shows David's view of studying and meditating. He knew it was necessary, and he understood the power given to the one who fervently searches for truth. Meditation involves more than just attending services; it implies focusing on the Word. When David says, *"at all times,"* he shows that study is more than something we do -- it is a part of who we are. A New Testament example is found in Acts 17:11, which states, *"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."* The key word, *"daily,"* excludes only studying two days a week, and to be *"noble-minded,"* one must study often.

Second Timothy 2:15 states, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."* Merriam Webster defines *"diligence"* as: *"characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort."* We, as children of God, must zealously and energetically study God's word! Clearly, obedience to this verse cannot be fully accomplished through three services

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every week; God is expecting us to examine the scriptures. Like David, can you say, “*Your servant meditates on Your statutes?*”

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