

# L10 | Spiritual Life | "The Digestion of the Word of Truth" | Jeremiah 15:16

## I. Intro/Review:

- The Intake of the Word of Truth
  - The Word of Truth
  - The Power of the Word of Truth
  - The Purpose of the Word of Truth
  - The Medium of the Word of Truth
  - The Means of the Word of Truth

## II. Preview:

- **The Digestion of the Word of Truth**
  1. The Place of Digestion
  2. The Purpose of Digestion
  3. The Process of Digestion
    1. Reading
    2. Studying
    3. Meditating (Meditation)
    4. Praying (Prayer)

## III. Sermon:

- The Digestion of the Word of Truth

**Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.**  
**{Jeremiah 15:16}**

### 1. The Place of Digestion - Spiritual Intestines/Bowels

- The Word of God & Food
  - Matt. 4:4 - bread
  - 1 Cor. 3:2 - milk / meat
  - Heb. 5:14 - strong meat
  - 1 Pet. 2:2 - milk
  - Ps. 19:10 - honey; Ps. 119:103
- Physically
  1. entrance into the mouth, chewing, swallowing
  2. intestinal breakdown, absorption into the blood for use by the body
- Spiritually
  1. Audibly entrance into the ears into the mind
  1. Sight of words entrance by the eyes into the mind

2. Into the mind for breakdown, and absorption into the heart for use by the body

- So where?
  - In the inner man
    1. 1 The. 2:13 - "...the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."
    2. Php. 2:13 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."
    3. Col. 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;"
    4. Jn. 6:32, 35, 53-58, 63
      - :32 - "true bread from heaven"
      - :35 - "he that cometh...he that believeth"
      - :53-58 - "eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood"
      - :63 - "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."
    5. Matt. 4:4 - "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
  - The mind and heart

2. The Purpose of Digestion - Christ in you, effectual working of His word

- Physically Goal - the breakdown of the food which contains the nutrients to be assimilated for the body to use
- Spiritually Goal - the breakdown of the food of God's Word which contains the spiritual nutrients of Christ to be assimilated for the body to use
  - Christ in you to be worked out of you
    - Eph. 3:16-17
    - Php. 2:13
    - Gal. 2:20
  - Effectual working

3. The Process of Digestion - Assimilation - the conversion of absorbed food into the substance of the body/the act or process of learning or gaining understanding

1. **Reading** (Isa. 34:16 - "Seek ye out the book of the LORD, and read...")

- 1 Tim. 4:13; Deut. 17:14-20; {Matt. 12:3, 5, 19:4, 21:16, 42, 22:31 - "have ye not read?"}
- Reading - the perusing of written or now "printed" words for oneself or for another(s).
  - The annunciation of words that in themselves have meaning that join together with other words to provide thoughts.

1. The manner

- The announcement of words either;
  - 1.1 - **Audible** - reading with the hears

- Shouting, calmly, et

1.2 - **Silent** - reading with the eyes - in the mind

2. Audience - 1 Tim. 4:16

2.1 - **Public** - Neh. 8:8; Deut. 31:11; Josh. 8:34-35

2.2 - **Private** - 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Ki. 22:10 (private to public - 2 Ki. 23:2)

- Thus "reading" is the initial intake of God's Word, but also the first process of absorption of that holy substance into the inner man.
- There is a presumed, built-in feature to that of reading; that is, the one reading or the ones hearing the reading are comprehending not only the words, but the thoughts in which they present to the mind and heart.
  - This doesn't mean they agree or believe, but they basically understand what is being said.

## 2. Studying

- A setting of the mind or thoughts upon a subject for the purpose of learning what is not before known.
  - To muse, to fix the mind closely upon a subject; to consider attentively; to examine closely
  - Today, as it relates to the specific resources available (books, classes, articles, internet)
- Going back to the 12th century "study" had one definition and then into the 13th century carried another
  1. (12th c verb form) - To strive toward, devote oneself to, apply oneself, show zeal; eagerness, to be diligent; pressing forward, thrusting toward
  2. (13th c verb form) - apply oneself to the acquisition of learning, pursue a formal course of study, read intently or meditatively;
    - (13th c noun form) - pursuit of learning, application of the mind to the acquisition of knowledge, intensive reading and protracted contemplation of a book, writings, etc
- How do we know the KJ translators knew this - this same word "study" is translated 10 other times, not "study", but
  - Gal. 2:10 - "also was forward"
  - Eph. 4:3 - "endeavouring"
  - 1 The. 2:17 - "endeavoured"
  - 2 Tim. 4:9 - "do thy diligence"
  - 2 Tim. 4:21 - "do thy diligence"
  - Tit. 3:12 - "be diligent"

- Heb. 4:11 - "Let us labour"
  - 2 Pet. 1:10 - "give diligence"
  - 2 Pet. 1:15 - "endeavour"
  - 2 Pet. 3:14 - "be diligent"
- Then in 1 The. 4:11 - "And that ye study to be quiet..."
    - 2 Cor. 5:9 - "labour"
    - Rom. 15:20 - "strived"
1. Not a good argument for the KJV
  2. Primary point - this word denotes intensity of its context
    - 2 Tim. 2:14 - "charging them before the Lord"
    - 2 Tim. 2:15 - "study to shew thyself approved unto God"
      - "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed"
      - "rightly dividing the word of truth" - no connotations to dispensationalism - but a fruit of the precision of "rightly dividing the word of truth" is dispensationalism.
        - Some have erred thinking making "rightly dividing the word of truth" synonymous with "mid-acts Pauline dispensationalism" to the detriment of thinking that dispensational Bible study is the only hermeneutic of scripture and claim "rightly dividing the word of truth" as justification for this; however, "rightly dividing the word of truth" denotes the precise accuracy of one handling, not a skin, or plough, or stone, but the word of truth.
        - It is from this precise accuracy that we learn of dispensations; however, we take this precise accuracy, this "rightly dividing" toward all the word of truth.
        - "rightly dividing the word of truth" has many other fruits
        - Therefore, I would suggest that the best way for people to understand dispensationalism isn't only by teaching charts, a listing out how many dispensations there are, but to teach people "how to study", how to "rightly divide the word of truth".
        - "orthotomeo" - {orthos - straight, upright; Acts 14:10 "upright", Heb. 12:13 "straight"}
        - Cutting straight - exactness demanded by the trades of carpentry, masonry, or Paul's trade - tentmaking (cutting of leather); or ploughing
          - 1 Tim. 5:17 - "elders...especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

- Opposite of 2 Tim. 2:14 - "striving about words to no profit"
  - "subverting" - catastrophe, turning of things upside down
  - Opposite of "edification" - house (:19-21)
- Stop worrying about men, instead be concerned about being before God
- Timothy is to be scrupulously straightforward in dealing with the word of truth in contrast to the false teachers with their profane and vain babblings and striving about words to no profit.
- To deal with the word of truth in such a manner as if to teach God's Word to Him.
- Therefore, in this context "study" emphasizes the pursuit of carefulness, attention, exactness of dealing with the word of truth.
  - Emphasis in more precise reading
  - Emphasis in meaning and use of words
  - Emphasis in context (that which primarily comes before, but also after), among many other things
- Therefore, "study" is the next stage of the spiritual absorption of the spiritual nutrients in the word of truth.
  1. Read - give attendance to reading - take in the words
  2. Study - with precise accuracy endeavor to understand the words and in their combination the thoughts that they are designed to generate within us.

### 3. **Believing** - 1 The. 2:13

- We don't have a blind faith
- Heb. 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
  - How do we know "the things hoped for" or "things not seen"?
  - We read and we study them.
  - When we believe them, they are ours, and our faith (composite of all these things believed) is the present substance and evidence "of things hoped for", "of things not seen."
- Believing is the full receiving of the light of the word of truth into the heart
  - Rom. 6:17
  - Rom. 10:9-10
  - God offers without faith, but gives to the heart when the heart believes
  - God has given to all believers, but the increasing of faith of the believer appropriates God's blessings to the heart
    - Gal. 2:16, 3:22
    - Eph. 1:13, 19
- Believing is the obedience of heart in first acknowledging and trusting that which

was read and studied as it is in truth, the word of God, which provides for the free course and access of that which was read and studied into the heart.

- Thus believing as an activity of the heart places the proper value of that which enters and reject for the draught that which isn't needed.
- Discernment
- Preach the Word - a vessel of communicating and teaching the word of God where this process can happen

#### 4. **Meditating** - 1 Tim. 4:15

- Ps. 1:2 - "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."
- Ps. 4:4 - "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah."
- Ps. 19:14 - "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."
- Ps. 63:6 - "When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."
- Ps. 77:12 - "I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings."
- Ps. 119:15 - "I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways."
  - :48, 148
- Ps. 143:5 - "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands."
- Pro. 4:23 - "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
- Meditation is the stirring up of the word of truth - read, studied, and believed to serious consider, contemplate, and search out the truth of the matter and have it comes to rest upon the heart.
  - Meditation is the ox that cheweth the cud, the rumination of those spiritual nutrients within the believing heart.
  - A communing with God in the heart based upon His Word
  - Meditation uses
    - Spiritual hammer to drive truth into the heart
    - Awaken the spiritually lethargic
    - Spiritually energize the weary soul
    - Encourage the spiritually depressed
- It is the ongoing interaction of the word of truth - read, studied, and believed - which now squeezes out all nutrients.
  - Particular situation - meditation searches and squeezes out the weightier things it needs to bear fruit and reserves the lesser things.

#### 5. **Praying** - Rom. 12:12 - "continuing instant in prayer"

- Eph. 6

- 1 Tim. 2
- The communication of requests, but also the communication of your communing with God in the heart based upon His Word.
  - Pro. 23:16 - "Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things."
    - Lips come from the heart
    - Aligning of heart

#### **IV. Conclusion:**

- Pro. 4:23
- Eph. 6:6
- Col. 3:23