SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Bible Study

SERMON REFERENCE: 2 Timothy 2:15

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) As we study the Bible, we learn solid truths that we can stand on.
      i) Our lives are transformed, not by resolution or emotion or determination, but by the truth of God's Word.
   b) As believers in Jesus Christ, we need to learn some factors of faithfulness that will help us stand strong to be a good Christian at home, a good church member, and a solid citizen in this world.
   c) The number one factor of faithfulness is Bible study.
   d) 2 Timothy 2:15
      i) This is God's command to us through Paul and Timothy.
      ii) We're to study to show ourselves approved unto God.
   e) John 17:17
      i) Do you want to live a holy life?
      ii) Do you want to be sanctified?
      iii) Do you want to be powerful in the Lord?
      iv) Do you want to stop riding a spiritual rollercoaster?
      v) Then, learn to be faithful in Bible study.
   f) Today's message will share four things that will help us to know, understand, and live by the Word of God.

2) RECEIVE THE SAVING AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE
   a) God is the author of the Bible.
   b) In order to understand the Bible, then we must receive the author of the Bible into our hearts.
      i) Without Jesus Christ, we are spiritually blind.
   c) 1 Corinthians 2:14
      i) If you've only been born once, then you are a natural man born into the natural world and are blind to the spiritual world.
         (1) You will never truly understand the Bible until you are born again.
   d) 2 Corinthians 4:4
      i) Satan is the god of this world, and he has blinded the minds of those who believe not.
      ii) Without Jesus Christ, the author of the Bible, you will never understand the Bible.
   e) The Bible is God's love letter to His children.
      i) In order to understand the Bible, you must know the God of the Bible.
   f) An unsaved person can read the Bible and appreciate it as beautiful literature.
      i) He might learn the history of the Bible.
      ii) He might even agree with the moral precepts of the Bible.
      iii) But he will never know the deep meaning of God's Word until he is born again.
   g) Nicodemus came to Jesus by night.
i) Nicodemus was a brilliant man, but he couldn't understand because he had not been born again.

ii) John 3:3

h) If you want to understand the Bible, first of all, invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart.

i) Receive the saving author of the Bible.

j) Once Christ is in your heart, then begin to pray.

i) Never come to Bible study without praying.

k) Once we are saved and we lay our intellectual pride in the dust and pray over God's Word, three things will happen:

i) Our eyes will be opened.
   1) Psalm 119:12
      a) “Teach me thy statutes.”
      i) When we pray this, God begins to teach us.
   2) Psalm 119:18
      a) God will help us to see things that we've never seen before.

ii) Our heart will be stirred.
   1) Psalm 119:36
      a) God opens our eyes, and He inclines our heart.
   2) We must see, and then our heart must be moved.

iii) Our mind will be enlightened.
   1) Psalm 119:73
   2) God gives us a new mind.

k) When we study the Bible, we need to always pray, “Lord, open my eyes, stir my heart, and quicken my mind.”

i) It is unthinkable to sit down for a serious study of the Word of God without asking the author of the Word to teach us.

3) RECOGNIZE THE SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

a) Once we know the author, then we must believe the authority of the Word of God.

i) The Bible will never be a real book to us if we don't accept it as the sovereign authority of Almighty God.

b) 2 Timothy 3:16

i) The word “inspiration” that's used here is used only this one time in the Bible.
   1) It literally means, “It is God-breathed.”

ii) All Scripture is God-breathed and is given by inspiration of God.
   1) It doesn't mean that God breathed into the Scriptures, but that God breathed the Scriptures themselves.

c) All Scripture is the breath of God.

i) When we read the Bible, we hear God speak.

d) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

i) 2 Timothy 3:16 says all, not some.
ii) This is why we believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible.
   (1) “Verbal” means “every word.”
   (2) “Plenary” means “full.”
   (3) This means that all of the Bible is fully inspired.
      (a) There is no part of it that is not inspired.

iii) 3,808 times in the Bible, we read phrases such as:
   (1) “The word of God came to me.”
   (2) “The Lord said.”
   (3) “God spake.”
   (4) “Thus saith the Lord.”

iv) The Bible is the Word of God.

   e) Matthew 4:4
      i) The Word proceeds out of the mouth of God.

   f) The Bible was written down by people, but they wrote it by divine inspiration.
      i) God Himself inspired the penmen.
      ii) Parts of the Bible sound different because God used different people.
         (1) Just like in an orchestra we have different instruments.
         (2) There is one author who used all of those men as instruments in His hand.

   iii) It was not mechanical dictation.
         (1) God used the fears, the desires, the aspirations and the experiences of all of those men.
         (2) But over it all and through it all is divine inspiration.

   g) Our view of the Scripture must be the view that Jesus had.
      i) John 10:35
         (1) Scripture cannot be broken.

   h) Accept the absolute authority of the Bible.
      i) Love the Word of God.
      ii) The Bible, interpreted by the Holy Spirit, is the final authority.
         i) Not human reason nor your conscience.
            (1) Conscience is like a sundial.
                (a) It operates according to the light that’s shone on it.
                (2) Your conscience can’t be your guide unless God guides your conscience.
            ii) It’s not tradition or emotion, but the Word of God.

4) RESOLVE A SERIOUS ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLE
   a) It’s not enough to say that God is the author of the Bible.
   b) It’s not enough to say that the Bible is absolutely authoritative.
   c) We must learn to study and analyze the Bible.
   d) 1 Timothy 4:13
   e) 2 Timothy 2:15
i) The word “study” is translated as “give diligence,” “earnestly endeavor,” “do your best,” “try hard,” “let it be your care,” “aim first.”

ii) We must have a burning desire for the Word of God.

f) Psalm 119:72
   i) Do you really want to know the Bible?
   ii) Would you rather know the truth of God's Word or be financially wealthy?

g) If we truly believe that the Bible is the Word of God, then we will have a desire to understand it.

h) So often, we say that we know the author of the Bible, that we believe the authority of the Bible, but we make no analysis of the Bible.
   i) We must open the Bible and study it.
   ii) If you're looking for a cheap way, an easy way, or a lazy way to understand the Bible, then you're not going to understand it.

i) 2 Timothy 2:15
   i) The word “rightly divide” literally means “to cut straight” the Word of truth.
      (i) This comes from a practice in the Old Testament.
         (a) Unless it was the whole burnt offering, an offering would be brought to the Lord and divided.
         (b) The priest would divide the offering into thirds.
            (i) One-third would be offered to God, one-third would be given back to the person who brought the offering, and one-third would be given to the priest.
            (c) The priest would rightly divide the offering so that everyone would get that part that belonged to him.

j) To rightly divide the Word of God, we don't bring our ignorance to the Word, but we study the Bible.
   i) All of the Bible is for us, but not all of it is to us.
      (i) 1 Corinthians 10:32
         (a) Everyone in the world is divided up into these three categories:
            (i) The Jews
            (ii) The Gentiles
            (iii) The church of God
      (2) As we begin to read the Bible, we need to understand whether that passage is written to the Jews or to the Gentiles or to the church.
         (a) For example, sometimes people take the promises that belong to Israel in the Old Testament and try to apply them to the church.
            (i) As an example, the Old Testament Sabbath (Saturday) was given to Israel, not to the church.
      (3) This does not mean that we're not supposed to understand or read those passages.
         (a) There are lessons there that we can learn, rightly understood, that will apply to us.
   ii) We have to understand how to rightly divide the Word of truth.
k) There are three things that will help us analyze the Bible:
   i) Context
      (1) Read it in context.
         (a) Don’t just throw it open and begin to read, and then claim that it
             doesn’t make sense.
             (i) If we read any book that way, it wouldn’t make sense to us.
         (b) The Bible was written systematically.
         (c) We can make the Bible say anything if we take a verse or part of a
             verse out of its context, which then becomes pretext.
   (2) Common sense
       (a) When we read the Bible, we shouldn’t check our brains at the door.
       (b) Read poetry as poetry, read prose as prose.
       (c) Read prophecy as prophecy, promise as promise, parable as
           parable, and precept as precept.
       (d) The Bible sometimes uses metaphors and symbolism.
       (e) Take the Bible literally and symbolically.
          (i) Taking the Bible literally doesn’t do away with symbolism.
             1. For instance, in the book of the Revelation, Satan is
                described as a red dragon with a tail that sweeps a third of
                the stars from Heaven.
                a. Revelation 12:3–4
             2. This is obviously symbolism; that’s not literally what Satan is,
                but it’s what he is like.
                a. There is a literal devil.
          (ii) Symbolism doesn’t do away with a literal interpretation.
          (iii) Find out what the symbol stands for, and literally believe it.
   (3) Concentration
       (a) When looking at a passage of Scripture:
          (i) Read it through.
          (ii) Think it clear.
          (iii) Write it down.
          (iv) Pray it in.
          (v) Live it out.
          (vi) Pass it on.
       (b) If we don’t do the above steps, how do we expect to understand the
           Bible?
   l) There must be a serious analysis of the Word of God in its context, using
      common sense and concentration with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

5) RESPOND WITH A STEADFAST APPLICATION OF THE BIBLE
   a) If we read and study the Bible but don’t apply it, then it will backfire on us.
      i) Inspiration apart from obedience will cause the Word of God to sour on
         us.
      ii) We must put the Word of God into practice.
b) John 14:21
   i) To have His commandments means to study, to receive them.
   ii) To keep His commandments means to obey them.
   iii) We cannot sing “Oh, How I Love Jesus” if we are not receiving and keeping His commandments.
   iv) If we want to be loved by God the Father, then we have to love God the Son.
   v) To love God the Son is to hear His commandments and keep them.
   vi) “I will manifest myself to him.”
      (1) Is Jesus Christ real to you?
      (2) Bible study gives us knowledge about God.
      (3) Obedience gives us knowledge of God.
      (4) We can study the Bible and learn about God, or we can obey the Bible and know God.

c) Appropriate and act on the truths of God's Word, and the Bible will become real to you.

6) CONCLUSION
   a) Have you received the author of the Bible into your heart?
      i) If not, then you may today.
   b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      i) Romans 3:23
      ii) Romans 10:9-10
      iii) Romans 10:13
      iv) Acts 16:31
      v) John 3:16