

(D1: The Heart)

Honoring the Lord in Our Bible Reading

The Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

I. Prepare your heart before reading God's word

1. Agree with God about His nature

- God's holiness (Revelation 4:8)

- God's glory (Psalm 19:1-2)

2. Agree with God about His word

- its sanctifying effect on me (John 17:17)

3. Agree with God about your nature

- my former condition (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- my current mixed condition (Galatians 5:17; Romans 6:4)

4. Agree with God about your purpose for reading His word

- to bring glory to God (Philippians 1:9-11)

- to be pleasing to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9)

II. Use self-control while reading God's word

1. Expect a single meaning in a passage

- clear communication flows out of God's holy character (Isaiah 45:18-19)

- clear communication is essential for obedience (Deuteronomy 29:29)

2. Hold fast to the normal use of words and language

Literal - use the literal meaning of words and sentences to help you understand what is being said

- John 1:1

- John 1:14

- John 10:9

Grammatical - use rules of grammar to help you understand what is being said

- Ephesians 4:14-16

Historical - use the historical context to help you understand what is being said

3. Observe your passage before you interpret it

4. Understand the difference between interpretation and application

5. Entrust yourself to God's wisdom
 - God's wisdom is above mine (Isaiah 55:8)

6. Trust in the sufficiency of God's word
 - God's word is sufficient (2 Peter 1:3)

7. Read the full counsel of Scripture
 - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

8. Recognize God's purpose in genealogies and records
 - the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:2-16 ; Luke 3:23-38)

 - the generations of Israel (1 Chronicles 1-8)

III. Counsel your heart after reading God's word