

Memorize!

Ponder: Committing Scripture to memory

Scripture: "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart" (Proverbs 4:20-21, NKJV).

I marvel at people with photographic memories. How wonderful it would be to remember things with ease rather than having to struggle with disciplining my mind!

Solomon wanted his children to remember the things he taught them. As with so much of the material in Proverbs, Solomon's exhortations to his children dovetail with God's will for us. Our Heavenly Father teaches us through His word, and He wants us to remember it. The psalmist stated, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

Understanding the gist of a Scripture passage is good. One might say, "Matthew 7:12 teaches that we should treat others the same way we want them to treat us." But it is even better to memorize the words: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Two years of preacher training school involved memorizing many Scriptures. I'm not proud of the fact that I memorized numerous verses only long enough to reproduce them on tests. Such was not possible, however, in brother Roy Lanier, Sr.'s class in Romans. He required us to memorize the entire sixth chapter and quote it to him verbatim! I remember pacing the floor, saying the words over and over. But it was more than just memorizing words. To get all 23 verses into my head word-for-word, I had to think about how those sentences fit together and what the passage was actually teaching. At the end of the class, I had a far better understanding not only of chapter six, but of the whole book of Romans, than I ever would have gained from just memorizing a verse or two here and there short-term.

Let me encourage you to memorize more of God's word. I know it's especially difficult as the years sneak up on us, but discipline yourself to do it! I was one of the youngest students in preaching school, but my next-door neighbor (also a student) was retired. He memorized Scripture right along with the rest of us.

Store up God's word in your heart. It will bless you in countless ways!

Song: "How Precious Is The Book Divine

Prayer: Gracious God, we thank and praise You for your perfect word. Help us not to be content with a superficial knowledge of it, but to treasure it up in our hearts. May Your word keep us from sinning against You, and may it strengthen us as we strive to obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen.