

Slow to Learn

Christians today are Biblically illiterate - Heb 5:9-13 - 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. 11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are SLOW TO LEARN. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

***Slow to learn is not implying a learning disability but a choice of lacking urgency to knowing Christ.**

WHY ARE SO MANY SLOW TO LEARN

They allow too many distractions to make the Word ineffective in their lives - Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and **THEY DO NOT MATURE.**

They don't see the importance of maturing so there is no effort –

Maturing is something we must choose to do - 1 Cor 13:11 When **I was a child,** I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When **I became a man,** I **PUT CHILDISH WAYS BEHIND ME.**

We must make up our minds to keep Spiritually maturing - Heb 6:1-3-Therefore let us LEAVE the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

The worth of maintaining God's Word is not appreciated - Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since **they did not think it worthwhile TO RETAIN the knowledge of god,** he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

They think as long as they say, "we are Christians", then we are considered Christ's family. But it's not those that say it, it's those that do it - Luke 8:21 He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and PUT IT INTO PRACTICE."

People are not living using God's wisdom- Matt 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

People are not using the right resource to understand the Word - 1 Cor 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and **he CANNOT UNDERSTAND** them, because they are **SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED.**

A major reason an effort is not made to aggressively learn is because people have a distorted perception of God - Mal 3:13-15 - 13 "You have said harsh things against me," says the Lord. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?' 14 "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty?' 15 But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR STAYING IN THE PATH OF THOSE THAT ARE SLOW TO LEARN?

We must walk by Faith, without growing in the Word we will lack Faith - Rom 10:17 - Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

The Gospel is what we are saved by, only IF we hold to it firmly - 1 Cor 15:2 By this gospel you are saved, IF you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. OTHERWISE, you have believed in vain.

Those who truly love Christ must grow in the Word because you can't obey what you don't know - John 14:23-24 - 23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, HE WILL OBEY MY TEACHING. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me WILL NOT OBEY MY TEACHING. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

the Kingdom of Heaven is only for those Who DO God's will - Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he WHO DOES the will of my Father who is in heaven.

God gives the secret to know God's Will - Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **THEN** you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

WHAT MUST WE DO TO LEARN AT THE RIGHT PACE

We should make sure we get the Word, keep the Word, and live by the Word no matter what - Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Reverence is a major attribute in our path to learning - Mal 3:16-18 - "16 Then **THOSE WHO FEARED THE LORD talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard.** A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning **those who feared the Lord and honored his name.** 17 "**They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them,** just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Know the importance of growing in God's Word and go through anything to get it, even suffering - Ps 119:71 It was good for me to be afflicted SO THAT I might learn your decrees.

We must be careful to receive and understand the Word –

Luke 8:17-18 - 17 For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. 18 **THEREFORE consider carefully how you listen.** Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him."

Prov 4:20-21 - 20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;

The Bereans were a perfect example - Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Don't just receive it, TEST it - 1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 **TEST EVERYTHING.** Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.

Testing is best done by those mature and living in the Word - Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who BY CONSTANT USE have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

We are not just to hear it we must do it! - James 1:22-25 - 22 Do not merely listen to the word, AND SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.

Our entire life ministry must be Bible rich - Col 3:16-17 - 16 **LET the word of Christ DWELL IN YOU RICHLY** as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, DO IT ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Recognize, God's Word is our protection and guide so we should make it our desire to grow in it - Ps 119:9-16 - 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? BY LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. 12 Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. 13 With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. 14 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 15 I **MEDITATE** on your precepts and **CONSIDER** your ways. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

THE PATH TO ELIMINATE SLOW LEARNING

(All of the following are to be done as often as possible)

- Study the Word
- Hear the Word
- Communicate the Word
- Understand the Word
- Test making sure it's from the Word
- Meditate on the Word
- Apply the Word
- Repeat