

LESSON 27: CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN HAVING A DEVOTED LIFE

(I) THE DEVOTIONAL LIFE OF THE BELIEVER (Devotions, Prayer and Memory)

This study will concentrate on our own personal lives. We deceive ourselves if we only hear the word and partake of sound doctrine. We must also be doers of the word.

We must realize that before the church is a gathering of believers, it is individuals under the Lordship of Christ. In order to be effective as a believer we must become effective in having an open and responsible relationship with God. This session is designed to challenge us to do so.

(I) DEFINITION OF DEVOTE/DEVOTIONS

- A. Webster – To dedicate, give over, to give center of attention, set apart
- B. Devotion: A religious exercise other than the regular corporate worship of a congregation (Webster).
- C. Giving of our lives to God

(II) WHAT FORM SHOULD DEVOTIONS TAKE?

- A. Variety of forms depending on needs, circumstances, schedule
- B. Should be practical
- C. Should involve action
- D. Should involve change
 - 1. In attitude, viewpoint
 - 2. In lifestyle, deed

(II) WHAT WOULD BE SOME SUGGESTIONS?

- A. Study how the Bible characters served God in their personal life.
 - 1. Daniel
 - 2. David
 - 3. Paul
 - 4. Etc.

- B. Read, think about and apply one verse of Proverbs.
 - 1. No need to “cram” a lot in
- C. Find verses that tell you to do something.
 - 1. Underline them
 - 2. Go back and answer “Do I do this?”
 - 3. Think about how you may apply the verse.
- D. Read books that challenge!
 - 1. Not only “light reading”
- E. Implement what you have learned.
 - 1. Share it with others.
 - 2. Share how you want your life to change.
- F. Study subjects which deal with life.
 - 1. Money
 - 2. Manners, speech, courtesy
 - 3. Giving
 - 4. Time
 - 5. Service
 - 6. Witnessing
 - 7. Etc.
- G. Apply the subjects!

(IV) HOW DO YOU BEGIN A DEVOTIONAL LIFE?

- A. Read Rom. 12:1-3
- B. Determine to live a practical life.
- C. Confess you need to change.
- D. Admit you need help.
- E. Set apart a time (Make time!)
- F. Go to the bookstore!
- G. Begin to do what you already know.
- H. Commit yourself.
- I. Share your commitment with others (now you are accountable).

(V) WARNINGS

- A. Don't get proud.
- B. Don't get “stale” and routine.
- C. Don't be afraid to change habits.
- D. Don't be in a hurry.
- E. Don't get “over-spiritual.”
- F. Don't “display” what you've learned.
- G. Devotions are a “means” not an “end.”