

The Essential Application.

(James 1:22-25)

“The purpose in reading and studying the Bible is not to have us get through the Bible, but to have the Bible get through to us.” Howard Hendricks.

1. Applying God’s word is essential. (James 1:22)

- a. Just hearing or reading the Bible is not enough.
- b. Under-applied knowledge can “puff” us up and deceive us, leaving us spiritually fat vs. spiritually fit. (1 Cor 8:1b, Ecc. 12:9-14).
- c. The truth remains, even if we try to ignore it. (Luke 6:46, Matt 7:22-23, Luke 12:48b)

2. Applying God’s word to our daily lives is the most neglected step of Bible study.

- a. It is easier to apply scripture to others, not to ourselves. (Matt 7:3)
- b. It is easier to be saddened by our sin than actually doing something about it.
- c. Good intentions don’t do much good. (Matt 21:28-31a)
- d. It is easier to apply scripture to certain aspects of our lives but not all of our lives.
- e. We are really good at self-rationalization.

3. We can get better at personal application. (James 1:23-25)

- a. Know the text.
- b. Know yourself. (1 Timothy 4:16)
- c. Relate it to your experience.
- d. Do it and see what happens.

Questions for Discussion and Application:

- 1. What is dangerous about not deliberately applying God’s word when we study it?
- 2. How can “hiding God’s Word in our heart” (Psalm 119:11) help us to avoid sin? How have you committed yourself to memorizing scripture?