

Studying God's Word for Growth - The Divine Mentor - Week 4

1. We are in the transformation business. I can only grow the way God wants me to when I let Him tell me His thoughts. His word in my heart can transform me when I get to that contemplation decision so I can decide that "It's worth it."

2. Two books - Divine Mentor (LT coming in 2 weeks), and the Bible (really 66 books, 40 authors over 1500 years). God has preserved His best for us to learn from. *2 Timothy 3:16*

a. We don't have to live our lives with an endless string of "if-onlys". *John 10:10*

b. Jesus tells us like He did to Martha that there is only one thing to be concerned about. *Luke 10:38-42*

c. It's about gaining access to an all-wise and all-power God who will personally walk with you. *Proverbs 4:23*

"Life is not wreckage to be saved out of the world but an investment to be used in the world." - Author unknown

3. Life has two teachers: wisdom and consequences.

a. Consequences are by far a tougher teacher. Consequences have a back-end price. *Psalms 119:71*

b. Wisdom has a front-end price that requires: discipline, obedience, consistency, and yes TIME. *Proverbs 22:3*

4. Life has two pains - one moves you forward (discipline) and one sets you back (regret). *2 Corinthians 7:10*

a. Regret comes from not learning from the bad examples in the past. *1 Corinthians 10:11*

b. It takes discipline to extract the wisdom of God from scripture. *James 3:16-18*

5. What is the legacy you are leaving for your family and friends? Is it a legacy of consequences and regrets or a legacy of wisdom and discipline? Our legacy can be just like Peter and John's transformation. *Acts 4:13*

If you study God's word for growth you will:

1. Find the help you need when difficult tests come.
2. Walk with both the heroes and the fools God has preserved.
3. Start thinking like God thinks, so you can respond as He responds.
4. Avoid costly errors and so avoid decades of misery.
5. Receive the Holy Spirit lessons from the past to apply to your present life walk.

Next week's message: The Joy of Sharing and Sending

Life Application Questions:

1. What was a discovery you made when you followed God's word and didn't have to suffer consequences? How did this motivate you?
2. Have you tried to short-cut your Christian walk? What did you learn about yourself? How have short-cuts in discipline hurt you?
3. What legacy do you want to leave with your family and friends? Will they see the transforming power of God across your life time?