

Maturing in Christ: Understanding the Lord and His Word
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Page # 1141

- I. Be a follower of Christ.
- II. Pray for understanding.

Ephesians 1:15-18 Page # 1169

- III. Study diligently.

2 Timothy 2:15 Page # 1191

Read - What does the text say in its original context?

(Great Commandment and Great Commission - Matt. 22:37-40, 28:18-20)

- 1. Read the OT and NT at the same time.
- 2. Switch back and forth from OT to NT
- 3. Read a book of the Bible in one week to 30 days.
- 4. Read based on a theme/subject.
- 5. Read a "novel" type version of the Bible. (The Story by Lucado, ESV Reader's Bible)

Examine - What does the text mean in its original context?

- 1. Context - What is the single meaning the author wanted to convey?
- 2. Content - What are the key words, phrases, and characters of the passage?
- 3. Culture - What customs of that day influence the text?
- 4. Cross-reference - How do other passages shed light on this text?
- 5. Consultation - What have others seen in the passage?
- 6. Christ- What does this passage reveal about Jesus Christ? (John 5:39)

Apply - What does God want me to know, believe, and do?

(Ask who, what, where, when, and why)

- 1. Is there something that leads me to praise God?
- 2. Is there a promise to believe?

3. Is there something that leads me to give thanks to God?
4. Is there a sin to confess?
5. Is there a command to obey?
6. Is there a warning to observe?
7. Is there a truth to share?

Pray - Use the passage to pray. Remember, only by God's Spirit and His word is true transformation possible.

IV. Seek righteousness.

1 Peter 2:1-3 Page # 1212

2 Peter 3:17-18 Page # 1213

V. Continue to walk with and learn from other believers.

1 John 2:15-20, 25-27 Page # 1219

Matthew 22:23-33 Page # 983

Faith Sheet

Transformation Verse (July) – Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

Main Themes

~ Only God's people have an appetite for God's word, can understand what it truly says, and then live it out in daily life.

~ Bible study can be difficult at times, but it is rewarding to the prayerful and diligent. (Proverbs 2:1-22)

#1- Reviewing This Past Sunday

Maturing in Christ: Understanding the Lord and His Word 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and discuss with someone.
2. Why must we have His Spirit to understand His truth? (1 Cor. 1:19, 23-24)
3. On average, how much time daily do you spend in Bible study? Ask God to increase your desire for Him and His Word.
4. How might the Bible study method R.E.A.P. enhance your walk with God?
5. Who could use your prayers? Pray as God leads.

2- Preparing for Next Sunday

Maturing in Christ: Praying as Jesus Prayed, Part 1 Luke 3:15-22

1. Read Luke 3:15-22. What was the atmosphere like at this time? (vs. 15)
2. What are the differences between John the prophet and Jesus the Messiah? (vs. 16-17)
3. Describe John's ministry. (vs.18-20) Why did he need to pray?
4. Describe what you think you would have felt and done if you were at Jesus' baptism? (vs. 21-22)
5. Notice this all happened while Jesus was praying (communing with the Father). Why is prayer so powerful? (See also Psalm 34:8 and Jer. 33:1-3)