

BOTTOM LINE WITH GOD'S WORD FOR MEN #29

Theme: Mental Sweat

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the Knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

A Thought:

In the late 17th and 18th century European intellectuals (The Enlightenment) challenged the Christian faith and its traditions. Modern-day adherents continue the philosophy in various forms today. Hence, the importance of *Second Corinthians 10:5* The scripture highlights Paul and his intellectual fisticuffs with members of the Jewish and Greek communities. He did not back-down. Paul is not vague and he sets the tone with absolute conviction that we must be prepared to defend the Truth. It is very fashionable for the world to challenged our belief, our traditions and our love for Jesus Christ. As Christians we must adhere to our faith...to do so we must study the scriptures. No shortcuts! Luke 6:40 (NIV) relates the inevitable..."Everyone who is full trained will be like His teacher." The apprenticeship starts the day we accept the Lord. In one of my earlier writings I reasoned the difference between childlike faith and childish faith. The implication is not to confuse our profound love for Him with childish thinking. Our intellect comes into play as spelled-out in Matthew 22:37 (HCSB) "Love the Lord your God with all your Heart and with all your Soul and with all your **MIND." In their book, Love Your God With All Your Mind, coauthors J.P. Moreland and Dallas Willard emphasize the importance of good Christian citizenship with the following thought (paraphrase) "If I am a plumber, clerk, bank manager, homemaker, senior citizen...I am in full-time Christian service no less than someone who earns his or her living in a specifically religious role." I believe Moreland and Willard are talking about you and me. Take note of Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you." Did you notice the words "teaching them?" It's apprenticeship time! Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.**

Talk to yourself:

- **How often do you have independent Bible study? Corporate study?**
- **Do you use study materials...commentaries, concordances and study guides?**
- **Do you have a mentor or someone to discuss scriptures?**

Scriptures to read:

- **Luke 6:40;1 Cor.11:1; 2 Cor.11:5; Matt: 11:28-29; Matt. 22:37;**
- **Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15-16**

Quote: Cotton Mather, 17th Century Puritan Minister

“Ignorance is the Mother not of Devotion but of Heresy”

Bottom Line:

When I first received the Lord into my heart questions continued to linger in the margins. I was told to read the word and not to pay attention to commentaries. Well, I did the opposite - thank God. Reading the Word and other materials...the Bible became clearer and the margins had less questions and my faith became stronger. There is a Christian program on radio entitled The Intersection of Faith and Reason...I learned through reason why the Lord died for my sins and why this sinner is saved by grace. I struggle with juggling my daily activities but a day does not go by that I do not read and study the Truth. Writers Moreland and Dillard have it correct...“If we cannot be His students, we have no way to learn to exist always and everywhere within the riches and power of His Word.”

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray