

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

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Address Given to the Wheaton College Student Body, April 12, 1950

Re-Broadcast by Tape-Recording, April 16, 1950, over Radio Station WMBI, Chicago, Illinois

I Peter 1:22 - 2:3.

I think that this passage brings out very clearly what is the most essential feature of progress in the Christian life. There are many matters which are essential to progress in the Christian life. There are many features which are extremely important, but there is one from which all the others flow, and there is one by which all the others must be guided; and if this one is not at the center, anyone of the others can lead us off into fanaticism or into gross error, and can cause that our Christian life can become barren and useless in the sight of God. And that one feature is greatly stressed here in this passage that I read -- the Word of God: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

Prayer is the very air ~~that~~ we breathe. It is vital. Confession of sin, Sanctification, fellowship with other Christian believers -- all these are essential. But that which is at the foundation of all and by which they must be directed, is the Word of God; and, I believe we should say, the private, personal study of the Word. It is your personal relation to the Word of God -- not what you get from some professor, not what you get from your minister in church, not what you read in a Sunday School lesson, not what you get from any one of any different sources through which it is brought to you -- but it is what you get directly, yourself, from the Word of God, that is most vital for your growth in the Christian life. "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word ... " -- it is a command. We should desire it. Do you desire it? Are you longing for the sincere milk of the Word? Is it more interesting to pick up the newspaper or the magazine? Is it more interesting to hear