

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

**2Timothy 2:15**

## Store In My Heart 1Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Sometimes we finish a job and find there is no use for what we accomplished. Other times we finish a piece of work only to find it must be done again, for circumstances changed since we began. It seems as if we are just "spinning our wheels" in some endeavors, finishing with nothing to show for our labor.

Paul tells us we can put all our effort into doing the Lord's work because our work for Him is always profitable. Though we may sometimes be discouraged by the immediate outcome of our service to God, we must keep in mind that God's work is profitable for God's cause. Since we know that such labor is profitable, we should be eager to keep steadily working for God.



# Gleaning Wisdom

**Dan Henderson**

In today's world of easy access and electronic information we are presented with a multitude of opportunities to learn from the experience of others on almost every topic imaginable. With periodicals, books, websites, email list, sermons on tape, video, cd, dvd we can almost always find information to help us in our study of God's Word. We must use these sources carefully or we can stray from the truth. This has always been the case of the concerned student of Scripture. The New Testament writers warned their readers of the need to compare the teaching of men with God's Word (**2Timothy 3:10-17**).

Another problem that arises from reading and listening to others is misunderstanding. This can cause serious problems not only for the student but also for the writer or speaker. There are some things we must keep in mind when trying to learn from others which will help prevent such misunderstandings and help us to glean maximum wisdom from the teaching of others. Consider some of these things with me.

## Listen

Most important in learning from others is the art of truly listening to what is said. This involves much more than just hearing the words. Much of the time we only give partial attention to a speaker or writer. If we are to learn without misunderstanding what is taught, we must first give close and complete attention to the teacher. We must keep our mind focused on the message and resist the urge to prepare a response while we are listening for an opportunity to present 'our side.' Many disagreements begin with this lack of attention to listening.

## Consider

Next, we must give some time to consideration of the message we have heard. We need to consider both the message and the messenger. We will better understand what is taught if we understand something about the one doing the teaching. All of us are influenced by our surroundings. One that has spent his entire life living in a large metropolitan area could likely misuse an analogy regarding farm life. This could lead to one that is familiar with country living to misunderstand

the point being made. The teacher here has failed in presenting his message, but the wise student, knowing his teacher, may be able to gain from the teaching what was intended with consideration and maybe even talking with the teacher to clarify the point.

## Context

Along with listening and consideration we must also keep context clear in our minds in all our study. When learning from the teaching of another we need to know if the message is trying to cover the entire subject or just one part of it. Is the teacher only looking at the blessing found in serving God or does he include the work involved as well? Without such understanding we could be led to believe the writer is teaching we are not obligated to work for the Lord. Also, in considering context we must again give attention to the messenger's background if possible.

## Compare

Once we have given our attention to the message and feel we understand to the best of our ability what has been presented we must dedicate time to compare. We must compare every message to what God has left to guide us. Paul commended the Bereans for such comparison (**Acts 17:11**). This comparison must be done after we understand what has been taught or we may mistake teaching as false. If we begin comparing a lesson which is dealing with our obligation in salvation before we consider that the teacher is only discussing that one part, we could easily begin to think he is teaching salvation by works which is in opposition with Scripture. Such misunderstanding could easily lead to unnecessary discussion and debate. Many religious arguments have begun because of similar misunderstandings.

Let us all give our best to the study of God's Word. Let us each give diligence in learning from the teachers who have gone before us and those who freely offer their wisdom for our consideration. Let us also be careful in our study so that we can gain as much as possible from what is presented without jumping to quick conclusions which will often lead to misunderstanding and strife. Prepare diligently for your service to God and study carefully that you might be wise in the Way of God.

(This article, written several years ago, seems important in light of our upcoming meeting.)

### Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

#### Church of Christ

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### For Our Information

**Paula Laubach's** swallowing structure is good. Other issues are causing her difficulty. She will be seeing an ENT soon to try to help this problem.

**Brenda Keisler** will have a spot of cancer removed from her scalp on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Malcolm Rigby's** back is a little better.

**Shannon Soliday** is working this weekend.

Sunday Evening - **Ezra 8:15** Wednesday - **John 1:35**

**Meeting – Reuben Prevost – April 21 -25**  
**Announcements are available in the foyer**

The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study