V. Conclusion

A. Our growth in godliness depends on our Bible intake.

B. What steps can you take to improve your Bible intake?

Class Schedule Overview
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Core Seminars—How to Grow
Class 3: Bible Intake (Part 1)

I. The Importance of Bible Intake

A. God gives us new birth through Scripture.
   1 Pet. 1:23

B. God sustains us in the Christian life through Scripture.
   1 Pet. 2:2, Deut. 8:3

II. Preparing to Receive the Word

A. Reverence toward Scripture
   1 Thess. 2:13

B. Humility and Dependence Upon God
   1 Cor. 2:14

C. Receptive Hearts
   Jas. 1:22-25

III. Bible Intake Methods

A. Hearing God’s Word
   Neh. 8:8; Eph. 4:11-13; Luke 11:27-28
B. Read God’s Word

2 Tim. 3:16-17; Matt. 22:31-32; 4:1-11

Helpful Tips:
(a) Find the time.
(b) Find a Bible reading plan.
(c) Meditate on the Word.

IV. Study God’s Word

Acts 17:11

5 Helpful Questions to Ask When Studying the Bible:

1. What does the text say?
   - Make careful observations of the text
   - Notice details

2. What does the text mean?
   - Use the grammatical-historical method
   - Identify the genre of the writing
   - Understand the historical, cultural, and literary background
   - Unpack the passage’s syntax
   - Outline the passage
   - Understand what the words mean in context
   - Pay attention to the context
   - Locate the text in redemptive history
   - Understand the text in light of the whole Bible
   - Discern how the passage points us to Christ (eg. direct reference, type, predictive, preparatory, reflective—God’s nature/human nature, resultant)
   - Use tools: study Bibles, commentaries, dictionaries/lexicons, concordances, etc.

3. What concerns caused the text to be written?
   - Grasp the main message of a biblical passage

4. What do I share in common with the original audience or human author of the text?
   - Understand ourselves in light of Scripture
   - Distill the timeless principles from the text
   - Understand what the text teaches about God’s character, purposes, and works, mankind, Jesus Christ, our response to Christ, our obedience, the church, the world, etc.

5. How should I now respond to the truths of the text?
   - What, specifically, does God require of me?
   - Where (i.e. in what specific situations) do I need to apply the truths of the text?
   - How does the text encourage and motivate me to obey God?
   - How does God enable me to respond to the truths of the text?
   - How can I spur others on to respond to the truths of the text?