

“I Have Learned”

Philippians 4:11

“I have learned” - **Philippians 4:11**

- ▶ Paul writing from prison was encouraging his audience to rejoice regardless of circumstances.
- ▶ Specifically, Paul is addressing contentment - an attitude we must “learn”
- ▶ Learning is a part of life and survival.
- ▶ And that is something we need to learn!
- ▶ HOW do we learn?

How Do We Learn?

Directly

- ▶ 1a. To gain knowledge or understanding of or skill in by study, instruction, or experience.
 - b. To come to be able
 - c. To come to realize
- (Merriam-Webster, © 2024)
- ▶ We put forth effort to gain more knowledge
 - ▶ Education, reading, listening, observing, experimenting, etc.

How Do We Learn?

Directly

- ▶ To be a Christian and serve God, we need to learn what His will for us is.
- ▶ We need God's word
 - 2 Peter 1:3**
 - Romans 1:16-17**
 - Hebrews 4:12**
 - Acts 20:32**

How Do We Learn?

Directly

- ▶ **2 Timothy 3:14-15**, Timothy from childhood...
- ▶ **2 Timothy 2:15**, Be diligent (study)
Psalm 119:104
- ▶ **1 Timothy 4:13-16**, Timothy was to read and learn and teach it to others

How Do We Learn?

Directly

- ▶ **Ephesians 4:11-16**, teaching leaders equip the saints so that they mature and not be deceived.
- ▶ Directly learning God's word is the primary way we will learn what we need to do to be saved, stay saved and help others to be saved.
(**1 Timothy 4:7-8, Hebrews 5:14** - "exercise")

How Do We Learn?

By example

- ▶ Example is a very powerful teacher. Much of who we are is based upon examples - speech, mannerisms, dialect, habits, etc.
- ▶ It can be more powerful than direct learning, because we SEE something in action.
E.g., Often a work environment assigns a mentor or instructor to show how to do something.

How Do We Learn?

By example

- ▶ The Bible is filled with examples of how we ought to live and NOT live.
- ▶ Faith - Abraham - **Hebrews 11:17**
- ▶ Perseverance - Job - **James 5:10-11**
- ▶ Persistence in prayer - Elijah - **James 5:17**

How Do We Learn?

By example

- ▶ The Bible is filled with examples of how we ought to live and NOT live.
- ▶ Jesus, our ultimate examples
 - suffering - **1 Peter 2:21**
 - serving - **John 13:15**
 - humility - **Philippians 2:5**
- ▶ Paul - **Philippians 3:17,**
1 Corinthians 11:1

How Do We Learn?

By example

- ▶ We are called upon to be examples:
- ▶ **Matthew 5:13-16**
- ▶ Timothy - **1 Timothy 4:12**
- ▶ The Thessalonians - **1 Thessalonians 1:7**
- ▶ Elders - **1 Peter 5:2-3**
- ▶ The wife of an unbelieving husband - **1 Peter 3:1-2**
- ▶ As examples, we ARE teaching others!

How Do We Learn?

By History

- ▶ History is a specific type of example.
- ▶ “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” (credited to George Santayana, ca. 1905)
- ▶ Many of the problems we are facing now as a society, AND within the church could be avoided or minimized if we would study & learn from history.

How Do We Learn?

By History

- ▶ Even some 3000 years ago, Solomon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 1:9**, *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.*
- ▶ Scripture appeals to learning from history
 - **Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, 2 Peter 2:6 (Jude 7), etc.**

How Do We Learn?

By History

- ▶ Consider **Nehemiah 13:25-26**, they were again marrying foreigners and it was having an impact on their children. Nehemiah appealed to the tragic example of Solomon (**cf. 1 Kings 11:1-13**)
- ▶ We study Bible history so that we CAN learn and hopefully avoid some of their pitfalls and failures.

How Do We Learn?

By Training in the Home

- ▶ Another subset of examples, but worthy of independent observation.
- ▶ The home is the foundational unit of society - **Genesis 2:23-24**. As the home goes, so goes society and the church.
- ▶ It is very likely that children will follow in the footsteps of their parents, whether good or bad.

How Do We Learn?

By Training in the Home

- ▶ The Bible emphasizes family!
- ▶ **Proverbs 22:6**, “Train up a child..”
- ▶ **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**, commanded under the LOM
- ▶ **2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15**, Timothy’s upbringing.
- ▶ **Ephesians 6:1-4, 1 Timothy 5:3-4**

How Do We Learn?

By Experience

- ▶ Experiences is a great teacher, IF we are willing to learn from it.
- ▶ **Genesis 30:27**, Laban had “learned by experience” that it was good to be an ally of Jacob (Israel).
- ▶ **Luke 22:31-34, 54-62, John 21:15-17**, did Peter learn from denying Jesus?

How Do We Learn?

By Experience

- ▶ **Philippians 4:11**, how had Paul learned to be content?
- ▶ **Hebrews 5:8**, Jesus learned obedience through suffering
- ▶ God has blessed us with learning by experience. But it is up to us to make the right choices!

The Bible calls for us to learn!

- ▶ **Proverbs 1:5**, *A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.*
- ▶ **Proverbs 9:9**, *Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.*
- ▶ **Proverbs 16:23**, *The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.*

The Bible calls for us to learn!

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 4:6**, let us learn, “*not to think beyond what is written.*”
- ▶ **Philippians 4:9**, what we learn we need to do
- ▶ **Titus 3:14**, learn to maintain good works
- ▶ **2 Timothy 3:7**, “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth...”
- ▶ **2 Peter 3:18**, grow in grace and knowledge

The other side of learning - TEACHING!

- ▶ What we have learned we need to share with others.

Mark 16:15, Philippians 2:15

- ▶ We can teach others - **1 Peter 3:15**
- ▶ We can be godly examples - **Matthew 5:16**
- ▶ Use your experience to have a positive impact on others
- ▶ What will your “history” reveal about you?
(cf. Hebrews 11:4)
- ▶ Is your home a place where you are teaching God’s will?

**Have you learned what
you need to be right
with God?**

**What are you doing with
what you have learned?**

Let us pray!