

Catechism/Pastoral Epistles -- Excursus¹

{Sunday, September 16, 2012 A.D.}

Q. 97. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effectual² to salvation³ ?

A. That the Word may become effectual to salvation we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer, receive it in faith and love, lay it up in our hearts and practice it in our lives.

(Prov. 8:34; 1 Peter 2:1, 2; 1 Tim. 4:13; Heb. 2:1, 3; Heb. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:10; Ps. 119:11; James 1:21, 25)

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NASB95)

¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,
¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB95)

¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Psalms 119:9-16 (NASB95)

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word. ¹⁰With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. ¹²Blessed are You, O LORD; Teach me Your statutes. ¹³With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth. ¹⁴I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. ¹⁵I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. ¹⁶I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

1 Timothy 4:13 (NASB95)

¹³Until I come, give attention to the *public reading of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

Hebrews 4:2 (NASB95)

²For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

James 1:21-25 (NASB95)

²¹Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²²But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

¹ Lengthy digression from the main topic; a detailed discussion of some point, especially one added as an appendix

² Effective -- producing or capable of producing an intended effect

³ **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB95)**

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

