

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – April 23-28
Doing Life Together – Threads of Thrive - Conviction

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: 1 Timothy 1:6

OBSERVATION: If we do not reckon with its early symptoms and protect ourselves by a right position and behavior toward the Word, we gradually become desensitized and we then become more and more open to the deceptions of Satan and the secular and profane world. It's like the illustration of what happens when a frog is placed in a beaker of cold water and then slowly brought to a boil in contrast to what happens if you drop him into water that is already boiling. He will jump out of the boiling pot, but he doesn't even notice if the water is slowly brought to a boil.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Psalm 119:160

OBSERVATION: Pollution of the Word (the mingling of our ideas, the failure to develop biblical convictions based on sound exegesis) leads to polluted thinking. Polluted living then leads to a loss of sound biblical leadership (i.e., men of biblical convictions). This leads to a breakdown in the home which in turn leads to the breakdown of society as is so evident in the early chapters of Isaiah.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: 2 Timothy 2:14

OBSERVATION: Everyone has convictions, but are they biblical convictions? We must use the Word to filter everything that comes into our minds so we can bring every thought captive to the standard of Scripture. If, after careful study, they fit with the truth of Scripture, they are then qualified to be called biblical convictions. This means Scripture always takes priority over our opinions, experiences, and background. When we fail to do this we adulterate or pollute the Word and weaken its impact on our lives. A wrong understanding of Scripture will eventually necessitate wrong behavior. In other words, by the wrong approach, we can negate its authority over us

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: 2 Timothy 2:15

OBSERVATION: We must be careful students who seek to rightly handle the Word (2 Tim. 2:15). The higher our view of the Bible, the more painstaking and conscientious our commitment and study should be. If the Bible is the Word of God, then away with slovenly, slipshod exegesis and application; away with that tendency to insert our opinions on the text; away with ignoring the text and assuming our ideas are correct without carefully studying the Word until it yields up its spiritual treasures

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 6:14

OBSERVATION: Dictionaries usually define conviction as a fixed or strong belief. Conviction is really much more than that. Your convictions include your values, commitments, and motivations. I like the definition I once heard Howard Hendricks give: "A belief is something you will argue about. A conviction is something you will die for!" Our convictions determine our conduct. They motivate us to act in certain ways.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 1:14

OBSERVATION: Jesus' life was dominated by his conviction that he was sent to do the Father's will. This produces a deep awareness of his life's purpose that kept him from being distracted by the agenda of others. Study all the times Jesus used the phrase "I must ..." to gain insight into the convictions that he held. When people develop Christ-like convictions, they too develop a sense of purpose in life.