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idleness, vain amusements or sinful indulgence; we are persuaded but few would be able to plead the want of time in excuse. We must never lose sight of the fact that God has addressed us personally in his Holy Word, and made it the solemn duty of all to search the Scriptures, and take heed to them as to a light shining in a dark place. What he has made it our duty to do, he has most assuredly given us time to accomplish; whoever therefore can find no time for studying the Bible may be assured that the time allotted to them for the performance of this duty, is sinfully devoted to something which is not their duty, and which can only bring upon them the displeasure of the Almighty. His plain direction runs thus: "These words which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart," (i. e. treasured up in thy memory, rooted in thy judgement and reigning in thy affections,) "and thou shalt *teach them diligently unto thy children*, and shalt talk of them when thou *sittest in thy house*, and when thou *walkest by the way*, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up, Deut. 6." This command is binding on all to whom the Word of God is accessible, and provides for abundant opportunities and means of studying it.

The Bible should be studied for the purpose of learning Christian Doctrine. By this term is meant every Truth which Christianity teaches. The basis of all christian experience and practice is christian Doctrine. Hence the importance which is every where throughout the Bible attached to it. The instructions of our Saviour, the course which the Apostles pursued in their public preaching and private admonitions; with the epistles which they wrote for the use of the church in every age; all show that in order to be converted, sanctified, and made happy and useful christians, men must be *instructed* in the doctrines of christianity. Tho' a direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men, is so necessary that without it even the Word of God itself, explained ever so clearly, and applied ever so closely and affectionately by the most powerful eloquence, would never accomplish the regeneration of one soul; yet so absolutely necessary is that sort of instruction which is communicated and received in the ordinary way, that without it we have no reason to expect the sanctification and salvation of any. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Rom. 10: 17. "Ye have purified your hearts in obeying the Truth thro' the Spirit." Pet. 1, 41. "*Teach* all nations," said the Saviour,—"*teaching* them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." "Warning every man," says Paul, "and *teaching* every man," Colos. 1: 28. "I have *taught* you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20: 20. "The things which were written aforetime were written for our *learning* that we thro' patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15: 4. The duty of gaining scriptural knowledge is frequently urged by the Holy Spirit. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." Col. 3: 16. "Add to your faith virtue and to virtue *knowledge*." 2 Pet. 1: 5. The importance of obtaining clear and comprehensive doctrinal views is vastly greater than is generally apprehended. Doctrines become principles of action. How often has the sacred name