**WORD!**

*Deuteronomy 11:18-21*

**INTRO:**

If church were a convention, last week Dave gave the keynote address, and this week I’m giving the closing . . . or the pitch. This is a call to really be people of the word. First, I’m going to look at the passage itself; then I’m going to give a rapid sampling of related ideas from the entire Bible, then some Biblical examples of men of the word, and finally—application.

1. **THE PASSAGE** *Deuteronomy 11:18-21*
2. Is a repetition of Deuteronomy 6:6-9
3. Deals with every part of our person—internal and external perpetually—be absorbed with it; in short—Learn It, Love It, Live It. *(Slide #2)*

v.18 “**Fix**”—prefer “lay up” from NKJ—to store

-like “putting up” fresh produce for the winter, so you have it when you need it—or like a squirrel *Heaven’s 911! (Slide #3)*

“**Hearts and Minds**”—parallel to, Deut. 6:5 “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength.” *Internal* and wholistic

**“Tie them . . . and bind them”** possibly metaphorical suggestion the Jews took literally—outward expression

“**Phylactery”**—holds Exodus 13:2-10, Deuteronomy 6:1-8, and 11:18-21 (This passage). All of these scripture passages reference signs, symbols, and reminders *(Slide #4, 5)*

--cultural reference point: could have derived from the pagan practice of wearing jewelry with inscriptions to ward off danger

--many of us today practice some sort of external adornment, with jewelry and apparel

v. 19 **“Teach, talk”** be verbal about it, all the time—your home as *yeshiva*

--medical school: watch one, do one, teach one; the value of teaching, and specifically, preparation for teaching, to explore and cement ideas is enormous

--teaching can be as simple as just reading, especially if repetitive

**“All the time”**—like the song “Ever Be,” we are to meditate on his Word as often as possible, both alone and with others

v. 20 **“Doorframes and gates”**—many of you probably do this already, too—adorning the public areas of your home with displays of the truths you live by—either in word or image. Like a Jewish *mezuzah. (Slide)*

1. **RAPID BIBLICAL OVERVIEW**—in order of occurance, a sampling of what the Word says about itself and our relationship to it.
   1. Exhortation to diligence: 2 Timothy 2:15—“handles”—to cut straight—ie. Skillfully *(Slide)*
   2. What to study? 2 Timothy 3:16—*all* scripture; ie. The whole Bible *(Slide)*
   3. Psalms—a treasure trove of wisdom about God’s commandments and our relationship to them Psalm 1:1-2 meditates day and night; *(Slide);* Psalm 119: 9-16 How can a young man keep his way pure?
   4. Proverbs 6:20-21—another reference to “tie and bind” as well as the role of those who hear the instruction of others *(Slide)*
   5. John 17:17—how is one sanctified? By the word *(Slide)*
   6. Romans 15:4—endurance and encouragement of the scriptures *(Slide)*
   7. Colossians 3:16—teach and admonish . . . and sing; how wonderful when we can memorize scripture by learning lovely songs; think of “Seek Ye First” and “Micah 6:8” *(Slide)*
   8. Hebrews 4:12—the word is living and active *(Slide)*
2. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF APPROVED WORKMEN**—handling correctly
   1. Jesus—greatest Bible study ever on the Emmaus road--Luke 24:27 *(Slide)*
   2. Stephen—Acts 7—sermon from Jewish history *(Slide)*
   3. Philip—Acts 8:35—testifying to the Ethiopian eunuch about Jesus starting in Isaiah 53
   4. Paul—Acts 28:23—“trying to persuade them all about Jesus by pointing out what Moses and the prophets had written about him”
   5. Peter and the author of Hebrews—liberal use of Old Testament scriptures (“it says somewhere”)
3. **APPLICATION**
   1. Read the entire book. In order. Repeatedly. 15 minutes X 365 = Bible in less than a year.
   2. Memorize as much as possible.
   3. Discuss as often as possible.
   4. Read it aloud with/to someone else.
   5. Teach it—to family, friends, or strangers (like your Uber driver.)
   6. Make it fun—use games. (Improv game speaking only Bible verses)
4. **FINAL EXHORTATION: Just Do It!**

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” James 1:22-25, NLT