

STRAIGHT TALK FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

STUDY FOUR

The Value of Knowing the Scoop

1 Peter 3:8–16

When you learn the truths of the Scriptures, it does something to your inner constitution. It gives you emotional guts so you're not afraid to trust God and to walk through tough situations.

—Charles R. Swindoll

THE Bible knows nothing of knowledge for theory's sake. Scripture never presents stories simply to entertain and impress, nor does it offer ideas merely to advise and suggest.

God's Word sweeps away each vacuous myth about some capricious god, all vaporous hypotheses about human origins, and every vain remedy to this world's dilemmas. It dishes out for us divine truth we can hold, eternal words we can stand on, a God we can know—a God who, in fact, walked among us and who loves us, hears us, and addresses our deepest concerns and needs.

How invaluable!

In this *Searching the Scriptures* study, Chuck Swindoll takes us to 1 Peter 3:8–16 that builds toward a literary crescendo: always be ready to explain your hope as a believer. Spiritual knowledge ranks higher than all other knowledge in this world. The supremacy of Scripture is the basis for Peter's directive and the reason Chuck emphasizes the value of knowing the scoop. As we will see, such a command proves to be as important today as when Peter first penned it—and not for seminarians only but for the entire household of faith.



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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

The Value of Knowing the Scoop

1 Peter 3:8–16



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Chuck believes spiritual ignorance must be consciously and continuously assaulted. He has devoted his ministry to helping others learn the Bible that they might know God's unique purpose for their lives on earth and have a thriving relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Any time we seek to grow spiritually, we must do so in prayer lest this newfound truth remain only a theoretical truth and lead to indifference or pride. We will do that now before we dive into 1 Peter 3:8–16. Ask God to anchor His Word in your heart, shape your perspective, and provide newfound strength to do His will.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

Begin your study by paying close attention to what the text says. Observation is step number one of Chuck's four-step Bible study method. We carefully tune in to every word in a passage and how those words fit together. This helps us avoid making Scripture say what it does not say, what we wish it to say, or what someone else incorrectly claims it says.



Observation: Worship Christ as Lord of Your Life

Take a few moments and slowly read *1 Peter 3:8–16*.



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1 Peter 3:8–16

The Life of Faith in the Sight of God

What five qualities did Peter want all Christians to pursue according to 1 Peter 3:8?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

What commands did Peter give in the first two sentences of 3:9 (NLT)?

What command did Peter give in the third sentence of 3:9, and what logic accompanied this command in the fourth sentence (NLT)?

How do verses 3:9 and 3:10 relate? What promise does 3:10 provide with its commands?



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1 Peter 3:8–16

Criticism is a constant diet of everyone in ministry, and some of it is deserved. Knowing how to handle it when it's deserved is one thing. Knowing how to handle it when it's not deserved is something else. It takes wisdom to decipher both. —Chuck Swindoll

List the four imperative verbs in 1 Peter 3:11?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

How did Peter, in 3:11, develop his commands from 3:9?

What is the logical connection between 3:11 and 3:12?

After 3:12, Peter shifted the topic from our life of faith in the sight of God to the life of faith before non-Christians in the community.



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1 Peter 3:8–16

The Life of Faith in the Sight of Non-Believers

What clue in 1 Peter 3:13 reveals Peter's shift in topic so readers might think about how non-Christians view the lives of Christians?

How does 3:14 connect to 3:9–12?

According to 3:14, how did Peter want his readers to view their unjust suffering, and how did he want them to respond?

How does 3:15 logically follow 3:14?



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1 Peter 3:8–16

First Peter 3:15: “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,” You’re my Lord. You’re the One I want to please. You’re my Master. I’m just a shepherd. I’m just a voice. You’re the Word. So, I bow before You, Lord, and I wait upon You to guide me in this situation. —Chuck Swindoll

According to 1 Peter 3:15–16, what did Peter say will keep a believer’s conscience clear?

According to 3:16, what did Peter say will bring shame to those who persecute believers?

How rewarding to read the Bible slowly and reflectively! Did you grasp Peter’s theological rationale? Sure, some of his directions prove tough to follow. Actually, impossible in our own strength and nonsensical in our power-hungry world. But we depend upon Jesus who fortifies our faith and illumines our minds with an eternal perspective.



Interpretation: Always Be Ready

During interpretation, we come to an understanding of what the text means. We dig in to the ancient culture, historical context, and theological truth. Be sure to have your Bible study resources available.

Research the historical context of 1 Peter and record how this informs why he wrote what we find in 1 Peter 3:8–16. Also, you can read the article in *The Swindoll Study Bible* titled “Asia Minor” found near the beginning of Chuck’s comments on 1 Peter.



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1 Peter 3:8–16

Know What You Believe and Why

Peter supplied four promises to accompany his commands in 1 Peter 3:8–16. These promises are found in 3:9, 3:10, 3:12, and 3:14. Summarize these promises and explain how a knowledge of them proves valuable for Christians.

According to the context of 3:15, why would someone ask a Christian about his or her hope, and why should Christians always be ready to explain their hope?

The great tendency is to be ugly in return for evil, but you disarm those who do evil against you with kindness and biblical truth. —Chuck Swindoll



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1 Peter 3:8–16

Practice

Imagine you have been wronged by a friend or family member. Your resistance to retaliate makes him or her curious. You have prayed for this person's heart to soften. The next time you talk to this friend or family member, he or she asks, "Now, why did you choose to become a Christian?" Write below how you would answer, highlighting the hope you have and how it strengthens you to repay good for evil.



Correlation: I Decided to Know Nothing except Christ Crucified

As Corinth thrived in culture, commerce, and education, Paul arrived on the scene with a new message to exchange the empty promises of human achievements with divine wisdom and hope. Some believed his message. After Paul left Corinth, he wrote to the church recounting how he had ministered the gospel of God among them.

In *1 Corinthians 1:18–2:16*, Paul wrote an extended discussion on the value of knowing Jesus and how the gospel is foolishness to some and a stumbling block to others. Take a moment now to read the passage. Do not worry about catching every detail or defining all the vocabulary. Simply note the importance of spiritual knowledge and what Paul has to say about it.

But never stop studying. Make certain that you have that Bible open and you have your heart set on gleaning from it truth to live by—truth to guide your ministry.
—Chuck Swindoll



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1 Peter 3:8–16

Application: Watching Out for the Dangers of Knowledge

Chuck provided a few principles for us to remember so that we might rightly use the spiritual knowledge we gain. Having spiritual knowledge does not automatically make us more mature or bring us closer to God. That is why Chuck wants us—seminary students, pastors, and new and old Christians alike—to internalize and act upon what we learn.

Principle One

Knowledge can be dangerous when it lacks scriptural support. So many spiritual books and sermons offer clever, thought-provoking advice but without basis in God's Word. How can you ensure the spiritual knowledge you receive is founded upon the Bible?

Principle Two

Knowledge can be dangerous when it becomes an end in itself. How easy this can be for seminary students who swim, day and night, in the pool of divine truth. Chuck tells us to remember that God's Word always moves us to obedience in faith, action in love, and joy in hope. What a priceless treasure! Detail a simple plan to guard against making spiritual knowledge an end in itself.



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Principle Three

Knowledge is dangerous when not balanced with grace and love. Some use knowledge like a sledgehammer that destroys rather than a balm that heals or a light that guides. Is there a specific person who comes to mind for whom you might need to use your knowledge of Scripture in a “gentle and respectful way” (1 Peter 3:16)? If so, record how you can do this.

God gives us no theories or fanciful stories. Every single person comes into this world with a problem too deep to be entertained away or solved by human ingenuity. That is why God Himself came wrapped in human flesh, to give us the “words of eternal life” (John 6:68 NASB). Cherish them. He cherishes you.



A FINAL PRAYER

Record below a prayer in response to what you have learned through this study.

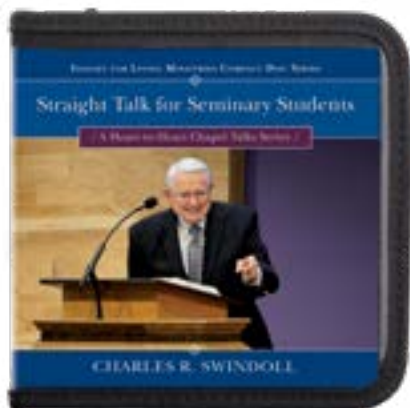


The Value of Knowing the Scoop

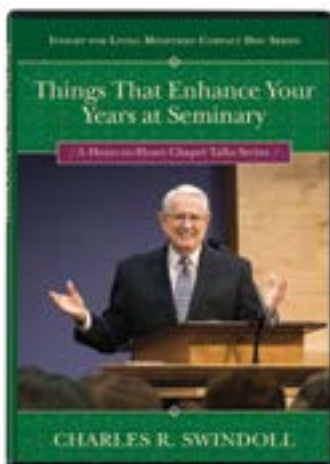
1 Peter 3:8–16



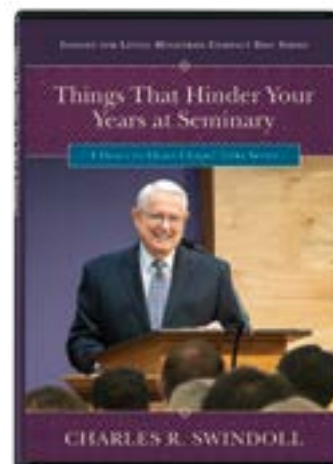
Tools for Digging Deeper



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For the 2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of Pastoral Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.

