II Timothy 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

Here are 3 points in this above verse:

1) Wanting to be approved by God.
2) Standing unashamed before Him.
3) Rightly dividing the truth.

Benefits:

1) It pleases God. (John 8:29)

2) You're not ashamed, embarassed, or ignorant because of a lack of knowledge or information from the Word. (Hosea 4:6 / Ro. 1:16)

3) You know what you believe, so other false doctrines will not confuse you or lead you astray. (I Tim. 4:1 / Heb. 13:5)

HOW TO STUDY THE WORD:

1. Read it.

   Find other passages that are similar to your topic of study. This is part of the studying process. When you find other correlating scriptures it will often enlighten your understanding.
Don't make excuses why you cannot find the time to read your Bible every day. There's nothing in your life that's more important for you to do than read your Bible.

NOTE: The more you read the Word, the more freedom you'll experience. The more you read the Word, more breakthroughs will unfold in your life. The more you read the Word, the more sensitive you will become to the Holy Spirit. The more you read the Word, the more knowledge, wisdom and understanding you will grasp in knowing God. The more you read the Word the more peace and love you will discover within yourself. The more you read the Word, the more you will want to read it!

2. Meditate Upon It.

Underline verses, key words, and phrases of the Bible. THINK about what the verses are saying to you, personally, in your life today. Think about how the Word can change your life.

Joshua 1:8 / Ps. 1:2 / Ps. 119:15; 48; 78; 97; 99; 130; 148.

3. Memorize it.

Store God's Word in your heart.
We, as humans, memorize phone numbers, addresses, names, sport teams, words to songs, music notes, recipe's, bank account & charge card numbers. Why can't people decide the Word of God is more important to memorize than these examples?

More believers than not, don't even have the books of the Bible memorized! It's true. I knew a little 3 yr. old boy, who could quote all 66 books of the Bible perfect. He was not an exceptionally smart child. It was the repetition over and over again that began to embed in his brain. You can do it, if you really want to.

Bottom line is, most christians really don't care to memorize God's Word, because they think it's not that important, or it's too hard or boring to do so. SAD!

Actually, it's the total opposite. God's Word, hidden (memorized) in our heart, will bring more life, revelation, encouragement, and victory. Quoting the Word of God strikes the devil whenever he tries to come and attack. Anyway, if our Bible is not physically in our hands 24/7, how in the world can we combat the devil of our soul? "Go away satan"! ?! That won't work. We must decide to use the WORD. Jesus did, when He was being tempted in the wilderness, recorded in Matthew chapter four.

Ps. 119:11 / Ro. 10:8 / Matt. 4: 3 - 11.
4. Apply it.

James 1:22, says it all when it come to applying the Word in our lives.

"But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

How do you know a real christian from one that's not? A true born-again believer is applying the Word daily in their life. Some talk it, the real ones walk it!

Ro. 2:13 / I Cor. 15:58 / I Cor. 10:31 / Gal. 6:10 / Heb. 13:16.

Jesus even stated in Matthew 7:16 and 17 - "Ye shall know them by their fruits....Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."

Without application to our reading, meditation and memorizing, we are still not bringing forth fruit. We must put action to what we truly believe. Acting on the Word brings results.

5. Share it.

When a person is excited about something, they will talk. Even the quiet, will open up and communicate if you find something that perks their interest.
Our eternal destiny is the most important decision we will ever make. More important than life insurance, money in the bank, material possessions, etc.

Now, that thought, should get any Christian enthused! But, often, it doesn't. The fear of rejection overwhelms most people and they keep too quiet about the subject of salvation and talk too much on worldly, temporal topics.

We all need wisdom on when to witness. Often, the Holy Spirit does open a door of opportunity though, and we fail to walk through it with our anointed words. May we repent!

When you get so much of the Holy Spirit in you, you cannot help but want to share the good news of the gospel with those lost souls you encounter.

Col. 3:16 / Mk. 16:15 / Matt. 28: 19 & 20.

--------------------------------------

Let me remind you of what Hebrews 4:12 tells us - "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The Word of God is so powerful it can do a huge, inward work in a person's life. The Bible encourages and strengthens a soul. It pierces correction and brings to light the sin's and flaws in our char-
acter and heart. God does this so we will change and become more like Jesus. He doesn’t correct to harm us, it’s to help us.

The Word is so powerful and eternal that everything else will someday perish and have to be re-done. But not the Word of God! It will remain through all the tests of time. Praise God! That that tell you something? Don’t you desire more of the eternal Word? It’s that powerful and potent.

Matthew 24:35 - "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

Revelation 22:18 & 19 remind us not to add or take away anything from the Bible. A similar verse is found in Deut. 12:32 - "...thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." (See: Deut. 4:2 / Prov. 30:6)

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)

So if you want your faith to grow, "feed" yourself with the "milk" (I Peter 2:2), and "meat" (Heb. 5:14), of the Word.

Read, meditate, memorize, apply and share it wherever you go.

The Word will accomplish more in your life than anything else you would set your heart to do.

When you put the Word first, the rest of your life will come together. Jesus tells us that in Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." His kingdom starts within you, by
His Word dwelling in you, after you've received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. If you haven't made the decision of following Christ, and receiving Him into your heart, do it now. (Romans 10:9, 10 & 13)

For more info: www.jillwalker.org
    www.therevivalchurch.com
    revjill@yahoo.com