

Practical Christianity

by Tony Edwards

Lesson Four Notes: "Increasing Your Knowledge of the Word of God"

- + Hosea said that God's people are destroyed for lack a of knowledge (4:6).
- + Isaiah mirrors this very statement by saying "...my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge..." (5:13)
- + We must understand that knowledge is vital when living for the Lord.
- + How to live a Christian life is acquired through knowledge-- what a person does not know, he cannot do.
- + This knowledge of how we should lives must come from the word of God.
- + Therefore, we must endeavor to gain as much of that knowledge as possible through studying.
- + Lesson Text
 - o 2 Peter 1:5

I. What is Knowledge?

A. Webster (New Webster Dictionary of the English Language)

1. To **acquainted with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation**
2. The fact or state of knowing
3. **Clear** and **certain** mental apprehension
4. The **state of being aware** as of a **fact** or circumstance
5. Practical understanding of an art or skill
6. The **sum of what is known**

B. And so knowledge means that we become acquainted with all facts, truths, and principles

C. We must have a clear apprehension (mental grasp, perception)

D. We must be certain in our perception of the facts

E. We also must be clear on the sum of the facts and not just part of them

1. **Ps 139:17 ¶** How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the **sum** of them!

2. **Da 7:1** ¶ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, [and] told the **sum** of the matters. {had: Chaldee, saw} {matters: or, words}
3. **Heb 8:1** ¶ Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the **sum**: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
4. **Ps 119:160** The **sum** of thy word is truth; And every one of thy righteous ordinances [endureth] for ever. (ASV) {Ps 119:160 ¶ Thy word [is] true [from] the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments [endureth] for ever. KJV}

F. And so what is knowledge

1. Knowing
2. Acquiring all the facts
3. Being clear on all the facts
4. Being aware of all the facts
5. Studying and investigating all the facts

G. This is what Peter said you must have

II. What Does God Say About Obtaining Knowledge?

A. Proverbs 2:3-5 “3 Yea, if you cry after knowledge, *and* lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, and search for her as *for* hid treasures; Then shall you understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

1. The word cry means to call out
2. It reminds me of what James said, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (1:5)
3. The Lord goes on to say that you must seek her as silver
 - a. How many of us get up every morning to start a new day in the work place
 - b. How many of us labor under roasting temperatures and unending sweat.
 - c. How many of us labor under conditions that may not be hot but try the very part of your body that guides you, the mind.
 - d. And all of this for what?

- 1) Bread on the table
 - 2) Have money
 - 3) Houses
 - 4) Cars
 - 5) Clothes
 - 6) Ect...
4. God said the way you persevere in obtaining these things you must be the same way in obtaining knowledge
 5. He also says that we must search for it like finding hidden treasures
 - a. This implies that we must diligently look for knowledge.
 - b. It implies that knowledge will not come to us but we must go looking for it

B. Proverbs 3:13 “13 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.”

1. The key to true happiness is not found in what a man has but what he knows
2. Not just any kind of knowledge
 - a. Ecclesiastes 1:18 “18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.”
3. But we are talking about the knowledge of God Almighty
4. You see this is the knowledge that will save, build us up, keep us, protect us, and make us happy.
 - a. Rom 1:16; James 1:21; Acts 20:32; Ps 119:11

C. Proverbs 4:5 “Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.”

D. Proverbs 15:14 “The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.”

1. Many times we can not obtain the necessary knowledge needed for spiritual because we talk about too much foolish stuff.
2. We feed on those things
3. We must realize that foolish things hinder our ability to gain knowledge.

E. Proverbs 23:23 “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

1. Acquire the knowledge of God at all costs
2. When once acquired, let no consideration deprive you of it. Cleave to and guard it, even at the risk of thy life.
3. Pro 23:23 “Truth, wisdom, learning, and good sense—these are worth paying for, but too valuable for you to sell.” (GNB)

III. Things we cannot know

A. What will happen tomorrow

1. Proverbs 27:1 “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.”
2. James 4:13-15 “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” (James 4:14-15).”

B. When we shall fall in evil times

1. Ecclesiastes 9:12 “For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them.”
2. This is why we must constantly seek the kingdom first
 - a. Matthew 6:33-34
3. Read Deuteronomy 29:29.
4. There are many things we cannot know.
5. However, those things that God has revealed we should continuously seek out.

In Conclusion

It would be really sad when we see God and He condemns us for not possessing the necessary knowledge needed to enter the eternal shores of heaven. He has left us instructions, admonitions, and warnings. This treasures located in Gods word cannot be comprehended without the proper Bible knowledge. We must build up our faith by building up our knowledge of the Word of God (Rom 10:17).