

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 11, 2021

“Knowledge”

By Ben Overby

The Hebrew writer desired to feed his readers "solid food." but was prevented by their inability to consume such "food," (see Hebrews 5:12-6:3). An interesting question arises after reading this passage. What value is there in our pursuit of "solid food," or those truths which go beyond the "elementary principles"?

That question brings up other questions. What is the value of knowledge? What is the purpose of knowledge? How eagerly should knowledge be pursued and with what attitude?

There are some who have a head full of knowledge but who never learn to live as they should. If we understand that our "end" is to glorify God, then knowledge will be seen as a means to that end and pursued accordingly. One of the greatest reasons for "learning the meat" is so that we can properly apply the knowledge that we acquire. The value of knowledge is not its mere acquisition but its application.



When I think about men such as Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, and Luther, and the depth of knowledge which they possessed, it is indeed a sobering thought to realize that for all of their knowledge, they each lacked wisdom, or the ability to properly apply the facts.

Calvin knew that God was a God of love, but he had not a clue as to how that fact ought to be applied within the scope of his dreadful "TULIP" doctrine. Luther knew that God was a God of justice, but he had not a clue as to how that applied to man's reaction to God's grace, faith, works of obedience, etc. Aquinas had a grasp of the nature of God that perhaps few have attained, but for all of the facts he could not see the error of the evil "catholic empire." Poor Augustine, with his head full of facts, was pushed by one extremist (Pelagian) to his own extreme, that is, that man is born a sinner and needs God's individual divine intervention in order to be saved.

If there is one enemy of wisdom, which has the effect of neutralizing a lifetime of acquired facts (knowledge), it is prejudice. There is a huge difference between wanting to know the truth, "*If anyone **wants** to do His will, he shall **know** concerning the doctrine*" (John 7:17), and wanting to know only what we are comfortable with.

Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin -- like countless others, spent a lifetime acquiring knowledge that fit within the framework of their preconceptions. Their prejudice blinded them, as it did people of our Lord's day, just as it does people of our day. So, contend for wisdom which is acquired through study and prayer, and which necessarily destroys walls built upon human prejudice.

Let me reiterate -- knowledge has no value aside from application. If one of the Hebrew Christians fell from the faith, then the knowledge that Christ was greater than the angels would have been nothing more than a worthless fact to him. Knowledge is a means to an end, not an end in and of itself! Again, some pursue knowledge and never get around to pursuing wisdom, (which I would define as the practical application of knowledge). Many accept the factual reality that Christ died on the cross for our sins, but how many trample under their feet the Son of God through their presumptuous sin? What good does it do to know that Christ saves, if one does not submit: to him as Savior and live accordingly"?

Also, be mindful of the fact that knowledge is a tool. Like any tool, it can be used properly or abused. Knowledge can cause a person to become puffed up. I Corinthians 8:1-2 states, "*Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man thinks that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.*" If you have a giant IQ and a mountain of knowledge pertaining to God, why be prideful about it? You only know what you ought to know!

For people, and especially preachers (who appear to be the devil's prime targets regarding the sin of pride stemming from knowledge) to manifest a spirit of pride concerning knowledge, is every bit as much an exercise of folly as it is for a "cover girl" to manifest pride regarding how she looks. If a person is "pretty," it is not her fault! It's a matter of genetics. If a person obtains a certain amount of knowledge, then he has only obtained what he ought to! He is only discovering truths long ago revealed and entirely insignificant in comparison to the knowledge which God possesses.

When brethren have their name preceded with "Dr." or "Professor," or when some follow their names with "BA, MA, Ph.D., etc.," this indicates that the person has acquired a certain amount of facts. The facts themselves do not make the man, it is the application of those facts; or shall we say, one's willingness to submit to the facts, which makes the man.

The Hebrew writer taught facts, which when; (1) correctly understood, and (2) properly applied, had the effect of saving souls. Peace should follow from knowledge, as well as humility, love, long-suffering, meekness, joy, etc.

Pursue wisdom, as the Proverbs admonishes. Then knowledge will be seen for what it is; i.e., a means to an end, and as such, it is not something anyone should glory in or glorify another for! You only know what you ought to know!

“Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth. “Do not forsake her; and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. “The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.” (Proverbs 4:5-7)

“Genealogy Women”

By Whit Sasser

The genealogy of Jesus Christ, recorded in chapter 1 of Matthew, is interesting and educational in more ways than one. But, one item of interest has to be the women who are mentioned.

Generally, it is a list of the male ancestors of Jesus beginning with Abraham, but a few women are identified and other than Mary, Jesus mother (Matthew 1:16), consider these others. *“Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar.”* (Matthew 1:3). Tamar was Judah's daughter-in-law, who he had sex with, thinking she was a prostitute.

Speaking of prostitutes, *“Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab”* (Matthew 1:5). Of the eight times Rahab's name is mentioned in the Bible, five of those times she is called "Rahab, the harlot".

Also in verse 5, we read, *“Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth”*. We admire Ruth for her love and dedication to her mother-in-law, but she was a Moabite woman, a Gentile, as was Rahab, too.

Then there is this: *“David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah”* (Matthew 1:6). Her name is Bathsheba, but Matthew reminds us that she was really the wife of another man before David took her away from her husband.

What do we learn from these women? We learn that God can use anyone to bring about His purposes. He enjoys choosing the despised and rejected of this world to accomplish great things (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

Memory Verse of the Week:

1 John 2:15 (NKJB)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”



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“Hardened Hearts”

Lesson Text: **Hebrews 3:6-15.**

I. How Can We Be Hardened?

1. By Refusing To Hear- **Zechariah 7:8-12.**
2. By Not Believing- **2 Kings 17:13-14; Mark 16:9-14.**
3. By Sin’s Deceitfulness- **Hebrews 3:13.**
4. By Stinginess- **Deuteronomy 15:7.**
5. By Prejudice- **Mark 3:1-5.**
6. By Despising God’s Goodness- **Romans 2:5.**
7. By Our Own Pride- **Daniel 5:20.**
8. By Refusing Reproof- **Proverbs 29:1.**
9. By Disagreeing With The Truth- **Acts 19:8-9.**

II. What Are The Results Of A Hardened Heart?

1. We Will NOT Hear- **Acts 7:51-60.** (Resist the Holy Spirit)
2. We Become Disobedient- **Nehemiah 9:9-17.**
3. We Give Ourselves Over To Sin- **Ephesians 4:17-19.**
4. We Fail To Receive God’s Forgiveness- **John 12:37-40.**
5. We Depart From The Faith- **1 Timothy 4:1-3.**
6. We Walk Away From Christ- **Hebrews 6:4-6.**

“Putting On A Heart Of Compassion”

Lesson Text: **Colossians 3:12.**

I. What Is Compassion?

1. “to have pity, a feeling of distress through the ills of others,”
2. “to be moved as to one’s inwards (*splanchna*), to be moved with compassion, to yearn with compassion,”
3. “to suffer with another (*sun*, ‘with,’ *pascho*, ‘to suffer’), to be affected similarly”
4. “to have mercy, to show kindness, by beneficence, or assistance,” is translated “have compassion”.
(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 116)

A. One of God’s Attributes Psalm 86:15.

B. God’s Compassion For Israel Ezekiel 16:1-14.

C. Jesus Shows Us The Father’s Compassion- John 14:7-9.

D.. Jesus had compassion for:

- The Crowds- **Matthew 9:36-38.**
- The Sick- **Matthew 14:14.**
- The Hungry- **Matthew 15:32.**
- The Blind- **Matthew 20:29-34.**
- The Leper in **Mark 1:40-42 (Luke 5:12).**
- The Widow of Nain- **Luke 7:11-15.**

II. How Do We Show Compassion?

1. First, Be Willing To Show Compassion- **Colossians 3:12.**
2. By Showing Love To Others- **Lamentations 3:31-32.**
3. By Helping Others In Need- **Exodus 2:6-8; Luke 10:33; 1 John 3:17.**
4. Forgiving Others- **Matthew 18:27-35; Luke 15:20-24; Ephesians 4:32.**
5. By Teaching The Lost- **Mark 6:34; Jude 1:22-23.**

III. Why Put On A Heart Of Compassion?

1. We Cannot Be A Follower Of Christ Without Compassion- **Matthew 10:25**
(See Point D above), **Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 10:34.**
2. Lest We Not Receive Compassion- **Matthew 18:27-35; Matthew 5:7.**
3. We Are Commanded To- **1 Peter 3:8; Romans 12:20-21.**
4. It Is The Greatest Good, Purest Motive, & Strongest Love We Could Have!
5. It Will Bring Us Closer As A Church **1 Peter 3:8.**

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Steve Switcher, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Hardened Hearts"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Fred Johnson
1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
Page 8, Question #15

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Jerry Kennemur
Colossians 3:12-13
Song Leader: Paul Johnson
Lord's Supper: Brian Meade
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Putting On A Heart Of Compassion"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April :

Auditorium Bible Class:

Paul Busby
The Book of Proverbs (Mike Willis)
Lesson 2, *Question #1*

Invitation:

Song Leader:

Closing Prayer:

Brian Meade
Paul Busby
Nathan Meade