

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Song Leader

Prayers

Invitation

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

2301 Franklin Drive ■ Texarkana, AR 71854 ■ (870) 772-0746



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Issue 16

The Value of Knowledge

Bill Brittenham

The definition of knowledge is: *facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education.* But you already knew that. Some knowledge just happens. Even from a babe, we begin learning from our experiences. (We learn a lot of the things in Ecc. 3:1-8) Later, we may go to school to learn more. And we keep learning up to the time we draw our last breath. There are people who know a lot of things. They usually do pretty good at playing Trivial Pursuit or Jeopardy. Some knowledge is very practical and other information just clutters our minds. And there are all types of knowledge; earthly, technical, social, practical and spiritual.

Most knowledge probably has some type of practical application. But much of it provides safety and protection, improves our lives, helps us to communicate more effectively and generally has value. It

helps our lives and if properly applied, will result in wisdom.

Consider spiritual (or Biblical) knowledge. This knowledge certainly provides us with the same benefits above. In the Old Testament, many of their laws afforded physical protection. Food laws and conduct laws didn't eliminate disease or illness, but helped them stay healthy and avoid consequences of poor decisions. And especially if they followed God's laws, His blessings resulted in a better life.

For us, knowledge of God and His word are eternally valuable. His instructions improve our lives now and prepare us to be in His presence for eternity. We can certainly understand the value of knowledge. Yet too often we either think we already know enough or allow too many other things to interfere with our growing in knowledge of spiritual things.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Vera Ellis fell and suffered a bad break in her arm. Because of the current situation, she will not be having surgery at this time. Please pray for her.

Mike and **Debbie Davis** are still doing better but please continue to pray for them.

Kave, Nancy Rowe's granddaughter broke her elbow. She is to see the doctor this week to determine treatment.

Here is the current schedule of services:

Bible Study:	9:30 AM
Services:	10:15 AM
Kids Only:	5:00 PM
Wednesday:	7:00 PM

Additionally, we are having studies on:

Tuesday:	7:00 PM
Friday:	7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Class: *Suspended until further notice.*

Knowledge and Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Wisdom is something I think we all desire. The entire books of Proverbs

and Ecclesiastes admonish the benefits and blessing of wisdom. Wisdom is often defined as “*the proper application of knowledge*”. Sometimes I feel that in our emphasis of wisdom, we fail to notice that there is something that is necessary to have before we can get or have any wisdom. And that prerequisite is so obvious, it is often overlooked.

1. Look at the very definition of wisdom. It is the proper application of **knowledge**. Wisdom is not something that is a result of our genes or environment or our family. And it does not come automatically with age as is often thought. (I’m sure we have all known some very unwise older folks.) But you might recall **James 1:5** *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.* This verse initially sounds like all you have to do is ask God for wisdom and He will automatically give it to you. But read the next verse. **James 1:6** *But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.* Faith is required to successfully ask God for wisdom. And remember **Heb. 11:1** *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* And **Rom. 10:17** *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.* So, putting all these verses together, we find that successfully asking for wisdom requires faith which comes from hearing (and knowing) the word of Christ. Knowledge is absolutely essential to obtain wisdom from our God.

2. The introductory verse of **Proverbs 1:7** also shows us the value of knowledge. Notice that the fear of Jehovah is the *beginning* of knowledge. True knowledge that leads to the

wisdom Solomon admonishes begins with more knowledge: the knowledge of the fear of Jehovah. But how can I *know* the fear of Jehovah if I do not *know* Jehovah? Thanks be to our God that He has provided a multitude of evidences for who He is and His character and nature. We can see and know Jehovah by His creation and in His Word, the Bible. (I think it is interesting that we are seeking how knowledge should lead to wisdom, but even examining the evidences of creation and the Bible, we must exercise wisdom to properly accept this evidence and learn the fear of Jehovah.) Remember **Psalm 14:1** and **57:1**, *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."* Many people see the same evidences of the creation and the Bible and foolishly conclude there is no God.” God says the opposite of a wise man is a fool since he does not *properly* apply the knowledge he gains.

3. Although speaking directly to His apostles in **John 14**, Jesus’ words apply to all and should have a strong and very serious impact; **John 14:15** *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”* In order for us to follow the words of our Savior we must first, know His commandments and second, know what love for Him is. How can someone say, “I love Jesus” without knowing much about Him. (And the same person probably has no knowledge what true Biblical love is.) Those who are married and truly love their mate want to learn about them and work diligently for the best for them. Again, we see the value of knowledge that allows us to know Jesus and understand what love for Him will persuade us to do.

Since it is very clear, not only from our lives and our experiences, but especially in regards to our spiritual lives that knowledge has so much values, why do so many of us neglect opportunities to gain more knowledge? Why do we not make more time to study? (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 5:15-17; Rev. 1:3)

We (and the devil) seem always to have “reasons” why we do not study and learn more. *I’m too busy. I work and then need time for the family. I don’t really know how or what to study. I already know enough.* And even now, when many of us are restricted to home, we have “excuses”. *There are too many things I must do. I’m too worried. I’m so distracted. I’m not in the mood.*

I do not want to bully or shame us into studying. I want all of us to understand the value of knowledge in God and His word. After warning the brethren about the end of the world and Jesus’ second coming, Peter says in **2 Pet. 3:14-18** *Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*