

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Do you want Bible knowledge?

I once heard an aged gospel preacher refer to a comment he received from a person who appreciated his sermons: "I wish I knew as much about the Bible as you." His reply was, "Lady, if you study the Bible for as many years as I have you would know as much or more!" Bible knowledge was prized, desired and gained in the diligence of study.

Today, it is very sad to realize that there are many people who have allowed themselves to be convinced that the Bible cannot be understood. Many others hold the view that the Bible is very difficult to understand and for that reason they do not investigate it for themselves. How dreadful and dishonorable it is for people to not know what God has spoken! The Apostle

Paul said people could have the knowledge he had by reading what he had written (Eph. 3:4; cf. 5:17).

In many cases, people who do not study the Bible for themselves have come to rely upon preachers to provide answers to their questions. Many preachers are very happy to help as many people as possible in gaining an understanding of what God has said. It is the mission of those who preach and teach God's word to "make all men see" or "bring to light" the wisdom of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Eph. 3:1-ff). But we must heed the warning that Christ gave with regard to relying on men as a source of truth. Of the religious leaders of His day, He said, "...they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit." (Matt. 15:14). People should study the Bible for themselves. If they do not, they become so easily deceived. (1 John 4:1).

Studying the Bible is not nearly as difficult as some would lead you to believe. Being a worthy Bible student is simple if you will follow these three basic principles:

1. Recognize that the Bible is the word of God. This amazing book is unique; no other book compares to it. The writers were men, but they wrote what the ultimate author commanded: "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." (2 Pet. 1:20-21). This incredible one-of-a-kind book reveals where man came from, why he is here and where he is going. Paul said, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2

Tim. 3:16-17). Jesus Christ respected the Scriptures and regarded them as the word of God (John 17:17). You are in good company when you so regard the Bible.

2. Hunger and thirst for righteousness. Following the Lord's directive in Matt. 5:6, if we have an intense desire to obtain "the righteousness of God" (2 Pet. 1:1; Rom. 3:22; 10:3), with the same fervor we seek food and drink when hungry, we will obtain it! When we develop an appetite for regular servings of spiritual food, we will indeed grow thereby (1 Pet. 2:2). These are the ones who take advantage of every opportunity to discuss and learn from God's word.

3. Pay the price. Paul admonished, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2Tim. 2:15). Study is work. It is careful examination, analysis, seeking answers to questions with the specific purpose or intent to understand and learn. There is no "easy" button to push and no knowledge pill to take. This price is far more than most are willing to pay. The price of that filet mignon causes me to lose my desire for it and choose chicken. The price for knowing the Scriptures causes many to allow others to tell them about their religious views rather than going to the source of truth. Any who are unwilling to do what it takes to know the Scriptures will never know and understand them as they could or should.

Yes, friend, you can obtain a great deal of Bible knowledge, if you remember and apply these simple basic principles. If you have the proper respect for the Bible as the word of God, a burning desire for the righteousness it contains and a willingness to pay the price for success, you can understand and know what God has spoken! And with that knowledge you can enjoy all

the spiritual blessings that God has for man, which are found in Christ (Eph. 1:3). May we help you today?

- GFS

Count Every Blessing!

There are times when we find it necessary to sit down and total up our material assets. This will produce an impressive list when we consider it includes every single thing we own. The list generally begins with stocks and bonds, money in the bank and the value of insurance policies. Then we list the house, land we own, automobiles, furniture, silverware, stamp and coin collections, jewelry, and even down to the ring on the little finger. Most people are financially worth more than they realize.

James tells us that “Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17 ASV). The point that impresses me as I read this statement is the emphasis placed upon the word “every.” This expresses the sum total of every good thing that makes up life. In the process of counting our blessings we generally look at what we consider the greater things in life, such as the inventory of material things around us. But we must not fail to count the unnoticed things in life which have become all too common to us. These involve the blessings of life, health, prosperity and a family relationship where there is an abundance of love and unity. These blessings can hardly be over-estimated. Then there are those blessings of opportunities and privileges we have in our land to worship God without fear and without harm. But there are greater blessings bestowed upon us than these, and we fail to consider them at times. The

free access we have to the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the privilege of speaking through prayer to the Creator of heaven and earth, are by far the greatest blessings extended to mankind. Such passages as 1 John 1:7; 2:1-2, can help us to properly evaluate our true status in a world where all things are destined to perish.

Let me suggest that when you sit down to list your personal assets, be certain to include EVERY blessing from God, even those which you overlook each day. You will probably be surprised to learn you are so rich.

- Dorval McClister

"Waiting"

"Waiting! Yes, patiently waiting!
Till next steps made plain shall be;
To hear, with the inner hearing,
The Voice that will call for me.

"Waiting! Yes, quietly waiting!
No need for an anxious dread;
Shall He not assuredly guide me,
Who giveth me daily bread?

"Waiting! Yes, hopefully waiting!
With hope that need not grow dim;
The Master is pledged to guide me,
And my eyes are unto Him.

"Waiting! Expectantly waiting!
Perhaps it may be today
The Master will quickly open
The gate to my future way.

"Waiting! Yes, trustfully waiting!
I know, though I've waited long,
That, while He withholds His purpose,
His waiting cannot be wrong."

—*Gospel Herald.*

- > You cannot unsay a cruel word.
 - > It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
 - > Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.
 - > Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
 - > Teachers open the door but you must walk through it yourself.
 - > If your strength is small, don't carry heavy burdens. If your words are worthless, don't give advice.
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SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"Implanting Forgiveness In Our Children!"* (text: Matt. 18:23-35); Sunday evening: Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – *Gethsemane!* (Mark 14:32-41).

SCHEDULE: Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18-23, with Eric Reynolds.