

Cultivating Knowledge

Lesson for Sunday, August 24, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Who can remember what we did before we had GPS on our phones?
 - Started with actual maps! Then GPS was introduced as a separate device for your car, and finally to our phones.
- ⇒ GPS is a marvelous thing! It triangulates your position by taking readings from three to four satellites orbiting 10,000 miles above the earth.
- ⇒ GPS works because the receiver will maintain continuous contact with outside reference points.
- ⇒ Scriptural knowledge functions in a similar way. The Bible is your personal satellite for navigating your way through life.
- ⇒ Practice your Scripture memory and quote 2 Peter 1:5.
- ⇒ Last week we discussed virtue (arete). Once we are committed to proclaiming the excellencies of Christ, we must naturally increase our knowledge of Him.
- ⇒ The knowledge that Peter is referencing is the knowledge of Christ and His ways. See 2 Peter 3:18.
- ⇒ How do we add to our virtue knowledge?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Hearing His Words (Matthew 7:24-27)
 - a. Read the passage. Jesus's teaching implies several things.
 - b. First, we learn that the stability of wisdom begins by giving attention to Jesus's words.
 - i. A believer who neglects his Bible and the regular preaching of God's Word simply will not make it.
 - ii. ILL: Read these verses and point out their mindset toward the Word of God of men who are determined to seek God. Read Job 23:12 and Psalm 119:14.
 - c. Hearing God's Word is more than simply an exercise in listening. It implies hearing with an intention to obey.
 - i. Notice in Matthew 7 that the only difference between the wise man and the fool is that the wise man does something with what he hears.
 - ii. Both types of men hear – only one acts on what they hear.
 - iii. The man or woman who wishes to add knowledge to their life makes reading, memorizing, meditating and studying God's Word a priority in their life.
 - d. A Christ-centered life is possible only for the Word-filled believer.
2. Obeying His Words (James 1:22)
 - a. In Matthew 7, Jesus teaches that a man who hears His words must commit himself to obeying His words.
 - b. Read James 1:22.

- c. This is an especially important point for people in our classes. At FBT, we teach the Bible. Many of our people know the content of the Bible.
 - i. This is not bad in and of itself. We live in an age of Biblical illiteracy, and we cannot obey what we do not know. But we must be sure that we never stop at knowledge only. As James points out, we are in danger of deceiving ourselves!
 - ii. It is important to always be considering what we are to do with what we are learning.
- 3. The Results of Hearing and Obeying God's Word
 - a. When we are committed to knowing and obeying God's Word, our lives will change.
 - b. First, we will develop a Biblical worldview.
 - i. We learn to view the world in light of God's truth, and we develop an eternal perspective.
 - ii. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. A Biblical worldview impacts every area of our lives.
 - c. Second, we become wise.
 - i. Wisdom is the possession of the one who wants to know Christ because he wants to be like Christ.
 - ii. He cultivates knowledge because he is cultivating the pursuit of excellence (virtue) of Christlikeness. Read Proverbs 2:6-7.
 - d. Third, we experience fellowship with God.
 - i. The product that results from a Christian pursuing Christlikeness through the Word of God is "fellowship-knowledge."
 - ii. Consider this quote from Tozer: *For millions of Christians, God is no more real than He is to the non-Christian. They go through life trying to love an ideal and be loyal to a mere principle. {But} A loving Person dominates the Bible...and He manifests Himself whenever and wherever His people have the receptivity necessary to receive it. And that will be the difference between a nominal Christian and a life radiant with the light of His face.*
 - iii. Fellowship with God is a result of one's willingness to hear and obey God.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ How can we "hear" God's Word more in our lives? What habits do we need to cultivate?
- ⇒ How can we "hear" better when we are reading God's Word, or listening to a SS lesson or a message in a church service?
- ⇒ Is there an area in your life where what you know and how you live are at conflict? What do you know that you need to obey?
- ⇒ Which of the three results we discussed in point three sound most appealing to you and why?