

# *True Knowledge*

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Proverbs 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

- I. Knowledge without understanding is not a blessing, and makes a fool out of us.
  - A. The definition of foolishness is “want of understanding, wisdom, and good judgment.” (i.e.: “educated fool.”)
  - B. Any kind of knowledge that causes us to be proud, vain, and self-confident is not complete and true knowledge, and not from God.
  - C. Knowledge that is only a collection of facts and data is of no practical value when love and understanding are lacking.
  - D. Any kind of knowledge that causes us to have contempt for others or to neglect their interests is being fed to us from a source other than God.
  - E. True knowledge will make us humble, modest, and kind to others.
  
- II. The true use and design of knowledge is that it makes us able to impart blessing and help to others.
  - A. Knowledge is not meant to be hoarded away but to be imparted to others.
  - B. The guy at the parts store that has knowledge is the one who can help you and make life better for you.
  - C. We pay for the knowledge that other people possess in all the business of life.
    1. It is the one thing we require of them, that they know what they are doing.
  - D. When it comes to the knowledge of the things of God many people treat it as something entirely different.
    1. The common perception seems to be that the truth of God is something fluid that we can all just think what we want to about it and it will be ok.
    2. Most people too easily accept notions and experiences that people throw at them when they do it under the guise of religion.
    3. Fantasy and falsehood is too easily accepted when it comes to the things and working of God.
  - E. We are admonished in the Bible much more about getting understanding than we are about getting knowledge.
    1. Knowledge is handy, but we can get it anytime now.
    2. I do not really have to retain a lot of knowledge of things, but I do need to retain a right understanding about things.
    3. What we need more is understanding, which is the ability to discern true knowledge from lies and fantasy.
  - F. Hoarding knowledge is of no benefit unless it is used to help others, fix broken things, and avoid problems and disasters.
  - G. True knowledge will put us to work – not make us proud and satisfied.
  - H. Knowledge rightly applied will promote the wellbeing and happiness of others.
  
- III. The meaning of knowledge has to do with being sure.

- A. To know something is to be sure of it.
  - B. Sin entered into the world because a woman was seeking knowledge.
  - C. The problem is that there are liars in this world, and the devil is their king, and he is the master of lies.
  - D. So we can easily think we know something and be sure of it, but be wrong about it, and therefore deceived, just like Eve was.
  - E. How many times have you repeated something you heard from someone else and later found out that what they told you was not completely right?
    - 1. It makes us look like a fool or a liar, and in fact makes us a part of the confusion, misinformation, and lies that are so harmful to others.
  - F. Therefore, the source of our knowledge must be completely trustworthy.
    - 1. There is only One who qualifies for that, and that is God.
    - 2. If we are going to be true, then we must have God and his Word as our guide, and be very careful not to state something as true when we have no knowledge about the matter other than what someone told us.
  - G. Being sure of some things enables you to guide others and help them.
  - H. But if being sure only makes you want to strive to keep yourself positioned above others then you can be sure that you have not attained to real knowledge and you would be better described as “knowing nothing.”
- IV. God gives wisdom and understanding with knowledge.
- A. Knowledge sought out for selfishness or pride is without understanding and void of wisdom.
    - 1. They may possess the knowledge of facts, but lack the understanding and wisdom to apply them to real life so they are beneficial.
  - B. Knowledge from God is like a tool that enables you to do what you could not do without it.
    - 1. So again, true knowledge brings action and is about practical application – not hoarded possessions.
- V. Knowledge is given life and light only by the love of God.
- A. But if any man love God, ...
    - 1. His knowledge will be applied differently than if he were operating only his own selfishness.
    - 2. He will have access to much more true knowledge than even the most intelligent and quick-learning selfish person.
    - 3. Love is the key to knowledge – it unlocks it’s potential to do something instead of just being something we possess.
  - B. A man’s course is not to be guided by knowledge alone but by his love for God and his love for others.
    - 1. Mere knowledge is not sufficient to be your guide no matter how great your store of it.
    - 2. True Charity is to be our guide as it is God’s.

2 Peter 1:5-8 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.