

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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GAINING KNOWLEDGE

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The vulnerability of little children is not confined to their beginning life with tiny bodies, but is also due to their lack of knowledge of the world around them. Protective parents begin early teaching their children of the danger of hot, sharp, and poisonous things. Pre-school, elementary school, middle school and high school are designed to facilitate the increase of knowledge in the ever maturing mind. Ignorance is no option. Our children will become knowledgeable so they can function and prosper in their secular surroundings.

We need the same determination to dispense with ignorance in our spiritual world. God, through His prophet, connects destruction with ignorance when Hosea says, “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*” (Hosea 4:6). The problem was not inaccessibility to spiritual truth, but the priests and people had “*rejected knowledge*” and “*forgotten the law of thy God*” (Hosea 4:6).

We can benefit from this Old Testament example as we stand before God today as His

people: Knowledge is indispensable in guarding us from ruin. Not just any knowledge will do. It must also be the right kind of knowledge coming from the proper source.

“*The excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord*” moved Paul to consider all else as “*loss*” or “*refuse*” in comparison (Philippians 3:8). The proper source for knowledge is Christ, “*in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden*” (Colossians 2:3). This “*knowledge*” of “*grace and truth*” is communicated through the Gospel of Christ (Colossians 1:5-6).

The purity of the source for our knowledge is important because false teachers will parade their teachings as knowledge, but in reality they are spouting “*knowledge which is falsely so-called*” (1 Timothy 6:20). In guarding the truth we know, we must turn away from profane babblings we hear.

The knowledge gained from God’s Word is not geared to elevate ego’s or impress trivia buffs, but it is “*a moral wisdom that is seen in right living*” (Thayer

p. 119). Transforming wisdom into right living demands hard work on our part. We are to exercise our senses by discerning between good and evil, and then, do good (Hebrews 5:14, 1 Peter 3:11).

Peter reminds us of the indispensable nature of knowledge: “*in your virtue supply knowledge*” (2 Peter 1:5). We can never obtain moral excellence or virtue without knowledge. Such knowledge points us inwardly as we develop “*self-control*” and manifest “*patience*”. This knowledge points us heavenward as we learn piety and live in “*godliness*”. This knowledge also points us outward to the world around us as we show “*kindness*” to our “*brothers*” in Christ, but also learn to seek the well-being of all men in “*love*”. (2 Peter 1:6-7).

All these traits add up to moral excellence in the life of the Christian gaining knowledge. Combined, they lead one into a fuller knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter. 1:8). “*May we grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord...*”