

SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1

Lesson 8 KNOWLEDGE

26 September, 2014

“Add...to virtue knowledge” (vs.5). God tells us to be virtuous (to do good to others), but if we don’t let God define what “good” is, we’ll end up with many differing definitions of “good.” The Bible must be learned so that we have a solid standard to live by. We must “add” knowledge through diligent study of the Bible.

Bible study should not be something we do only when it’s convenient. It should become something that we **MUST** do daily. We need to place the highest priority of importance on regularly reading the Scriptures. If you don’t have an interest in the Word of God, you will have to develop one. The more you learn it, the more interesting it will become to you. This will require diligence (vs. 5).

Too many people don’t want to **KNOW** what the Bible says. They’d rather stay ignorant or rely on things that do not provide true knowledge (signs, dreams, visions, voices, etc.)

A lack of Bible knowledge leads to people doing things ignorantly (uninformed, ignoring the facts). They’ll celebrate pagan holidays—because they choose to remain ignorant about the meaning of the holiday and what the Bible says about those practices.

A lack of Bible knowledge leads to people accepting the low morals of society as the “norm.” Moral standards are degrading every year due to people’s ignorance of God’s high moral standards.

Biblical correction (2 Pet. 3:16) will lead to two very different responses:

- a. “What’s wrong with what I’m doing?” This is a person who refuses to look at the Bible so that they can correct and stop their sinful behavior.
 - b. “Can you help me out?” This is a person who acknowledges that they may be wrong and therefore want to see what the Bible says about it. They are willing to let the Bible correct them.
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PROVERBS 2:1-13

The only way a person can stay on the paths of righteousness and stay off the paths of sin is if they have a working **KNOWLEDGE** of what those paths are. Without that knowledge, everybody will be right in their own eyes. Every behavior will be designated “right” by somebody’s own personal standard. You’ve got to know what God said!

PROVERBS 8:10-13

Wisdom and Knowledge is worth more than silver, gold, and rubies. A rich person without wisdom and knowledge can be easily deceived and lose their millions to a wiser man. A country with riches and power can waste trillions of dollars on meaningless wars and continually bad decision-making.

ROMANS 10:1

Many people have a strong zeal for God, but it's not according to knowledge. The result:

1. False teaching being propagated to multitudes of people. A man's zeal may enable him to build a mega-church where he'll have an influence on hundreds of thousands of people. If he lacks Bible knowledge, his teachings cannot be trusted; he'll rapidly spread false doctrine to others with no Bible knowledge.
2. Joining a cult and devoting your life to that cult's beliefs.
3. Wasting your days performing vain rituals.

It's not enough to be excited about and zealous for God. You've got to be right! The only way to be right is to devote your time to Bible reading and Bible study so you can obtain knowledge of what is right.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:6

You don't have to be a good speaker to have knowledge. There are many flamboyant speakers who have a "gift of gab," and can give interesting "fair speeches," but their message contains little or no truth. I'd rather listen to an average speaker who will preach the truth.
