

# Your Family's Knowledge I the Circle of Learning, Part 1

## I. The Nature of Knowledge

- Knowledge is good. Proverbs 19:2
  - Some hate the process of learning. Some believe that a person with more knowledge is too big for their britches. Others are afraid of certain knowledge believing that learning such knowledge will corrupt the one who learns it. But knowledge — in and of itself — is good.
- Knowledge is power. Proverbs 24:5, 13:16, 3:20; Romans 10:14
  - Knowledge is good because knowledge gives us the ability to do things.
  - Sometimes our family problems — our failure to do and say and think and believe that which pleases the Lord — is often problems of ignorance.
- Knowledge can save. Proverbs 11:9, 28:2
  - Every situation in which we find ourselves is a situation that requires us to make a Christ-honoring decision. I'll either choose to worship God or myself. Therefore, being able to make the right decision will save me from many heartaches, from displeasing my God, and my decision to submit to God will save me from an eternity separated from Him.
- Knowledge is valuable. Proverbs 8:10, 20:15, 24:4, 14:18
  - Because knowledge is so good, and because it enables us to serve God better, and because it saves us from making bad decisions that can negatively affect every area of our lives, knowledge is far more valuable than money.

## II. The Source of Knowledge

- Proverbs 1:7, 2:6, 9:10, 22:12. 20-21
- God is the source of all truth.
  - God is the way, the truth, and the life. The sum of His Word is truth. There is no truth that isn't God's truth.
  - This is why absolute truth exists. There is truth, and there are lies. There is right, and there is wrong. Lies are a creation of Satan, but all truth radiates from God.
  - This is why knowledge is so good and powerful. Lies aren't knowledge. Lies are falsehoods. When you think you know something, but that something is a lie, you not only don't possess knowledge, you possess anti-knowledge.
  - The lie steals from your store of knowledge by convincing you to jettison facts for falsehoods. And in the same way that knowledge is good and powerful, lies are bad and damaging.
- God created us to learn. No human could gain more knowledge without first being created to do so.
- God capacitates us to learn. God didn't just wind us up and set us on our life's path. Every step is empowered by Him. His common grace keeps unbelievers alive and empowers their minds to work, His saving grace empowers people to learn about the mysteries of the Gospel, and His sanctifying grace empowers believers to learn the deep spiritual truths of the Bible.

## III. The People Who Reject Knowledge

- Proverbs 1:22
- Anyone who would take a bar of pure gold and substitute it for a common, ordinary rock is a fool. Only someone bereft of common sense would make such a detrimental decision.
- Children in particular — because they're born into this world with foolishness knotted up in their hearts — regularly substitute the good and powerful knowledge of God for impotent, destructive lies.

#### IV. The Consequences of Rejecting Knowledge

- Proverbs 19:27; 1:29-33
- When you reject knowledge you won't gain knowledge.
- A person with cancer who rejects life-saving treatments believing that the unhealthy lifestyle that caused the cancer in the first place would cure her is only quickening her death.

#### V. How Your Family Can Acquire Knowledge

- We need to want knowledge.
  - Proverbs 2:10, 12:1, 15:14, 18:15
  - We absolutely must desire knowledge, and we have to teach our kids to value it. This starts with how we approach knowledge.
  - If you are an unteachable person, you're not only failing God, you're also teaching your kids to be better fools.
  - Not only do we owe it to God to be eternal students, we owe it to our kids to teach them how to love learning.
- We need to work for knowledge.
  - Proverbs 2:1-5, 5:2, 22:17, 23:12, 10:14, 14:6
  - All the knowledge we gain makes it easier to learn more knowledge. And the better we grow in understanding, wisdom, and the fear of the Lord, the easier it will be to gain more knowledge as well.
  - It's good to learn facts, but if we apply ourselves to understanding those facts, it will make it easier to learn more facts.
- We need to reject that which doesn't give us knowledge.
  - Proverbs 14:7
  - Many of our kids are fools because they surround themselves with fools. Their friends, their entertainment, even their teachers are fools. How could we ever expect that our kids were going to become wise surrounded by all of that?
  - Apparently our kids had at least one more fool influencing them than we realized . . . they had us.
  - We need to teach our kids to reject everything that lies to them. We don't have time to be lied to. We need to be learning the things of God; we don't have time to have our learning stripped away and replaced by lies.
- We need to run after that which does provide knowledge.
  - Proverbs 15:2, 7, 21:11, 19:25
  - Instead of surrounding ourselves and our kids with fools, we need to be enveloped by wise men and women who will help us learn.
  - We and our kids need to run toward instruction.
  - We also need to run toward reproof.
    - It takes a lot of humility and maturity, but a teachable person is thankful when someone tells him he's wrong. Christ-honoring reproof says, "I know you thought what you did was a good idea, but it was wrong." It's providing the knowledge that the individual was functioning off a lie instead of truth.
    - And when a wise man is reproofed, he gains that knowledge; he learns that lesson.