

## *Lesson 24: The 5th Essential of Holy Living: Christian Education*

**Memory Verse:** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

1. What is the beginning of knowledge?

Proverbs 1:7 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the beginning of **knowledge**: but \_\_\_\_\_ despise **wisdom** and **instruction**."

Proverbs 9:10 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the beginning of **wisdom**: and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is **understanding**."

So we learn that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and this knowledge is the knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_, the knowledge of God.

**Note:** "To many, education means a knowledge of books; but 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.' The **true object of education** is to restore the image of God in the soul. The **first and most precious knowledge** is the knowledge of Christ; and wise parents will keep this fact ever before the minds of their children." 5T 322.1

"**True education** means **more** than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means **more** than a preparation for the life that now is. **It has to do with the whole being**, and with **the whole period of existence possible to man**. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come." Ed 13.1

"**To restore in man the image of his Maker,**

to **bring him back** to the perfection in which he was created,

to **promote the development** of body, mind, and soul,

**That the divine purpose in his creation might be realized --**

**This** was to be the work of redemption.

**This is the object of education,**

The great object of life." Ed 15.2

2. Where does true knowledge come from? Proverbs 2:6

"For the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ **wisdom**: out of his \_\_\_\_\_ cometh **knowledge** and **understanding**." If it comes out of His mouth, it is His **words**. Where can you find them? His words are found in the \_\_\_\_\_. How will you get this wisdom and knowledge and understanding? Proverbs 2:1-4

You must receive His \_\_\_\_\_.

You must hide His \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart and mind.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ your ear to wisdom.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ your heart to understanding.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ after knowledge.

You must lift up your \_\_\_\_\_ for understanding.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ it as silver.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ for it as for hid treasures.

You must want it very much so that you will put effort into finding it.

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If you put this effort into it, what will happen? Proverbs 2:5

"Then shalt thou \_\_\_\_\_ the fear of the Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_ the knowledge of God." Jeremiah 29:13 tells us: "And ye shall \_\_\_\_\_ me, and \_\_\_\_\_ me, when ye shall \_\_\_\_\_ for me with \_\_\_\_\_ your heart."

**Note:** "Throughout the world **there should be a reform in Bible study**, for it is needed now as never before. As this reform progresses, a mighty work will be wrought; for when God declared that His word should not return unto Him void, He meant all that He said. A knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ 'whom He has sent' is **the highest education**, and it will cover the earth with its wonderful enlightenment as the waters cover the sea." 6T 131.2

**"Bible rules are to be the guide of the daily life.** The cross of Christ is to be the theme, revealing the **lessons we must learn and practice.** Christ must be brought into all the studies, that students may drink in the knowledge of God and may represent Him in character. His excellence is to be our study in time as well as in eternity. 6T 132.1

"In God's word is found **wisdom unquestionable, inexhaustible** -- wisdom that originated, not in the finite, but in the infinite mind. But much of that which God has revealed in His word is dark to men, because **the jewels of truth are buried beneath the rubbish of human wisdom and tradition.** To many the treasures of the word remain hidden, because they have not been **searched for with earnest perseverance until the golden precepts were understood.** The word must be searched in order to purify and prepare those who receive it to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. 6T 132.2

"The study of God's word should take the place of the study of those books that have led minds into mysticism and away from the truth. **Its living principles, woven into our lives, will be our safeguard in trials and temptations;** its divine instruction is **the only way to success.** As the test comes to every soul, there will be apostasies. Some will prove to be traitors, heady, high-minded, and self-sufficient, and will turn away from the truth, making shipwreck of faith. **Why? Because they did not live 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'** They did not dig deep and make their foundation sure." 6T 132.3

3. Read 2 Peter 1:2-12.

a. What things are we admonished to do? (verses 5-7)

We are admonished to give all \_\_\_\_\_ to add to our \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, brotherly \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

These are qualities of Christ-like character which we need in our lives.

b. Where do we get the things we need for life and godliness? (verse 3)

His \_\_\_\_\_ gives us **all** the things we need for life and godliness. We get them **through** a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

c. How are grace and peace multiplied to us? (verse 2)

They are multiplied to us **through** a \_\_\_\_\_ of God and of \_\_\_\_\_

d. What do the promises in God's Word do for us? (verse 4)

These promises are given to us so that we can be partakers of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature and escape the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in the \_\_\_\_\_

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e. What makes us fruitful Christians? (verse 8)

If \_\_\_\_\_ are in us. What are these things? (see verses 5-7)

F \_\_\_\_\_, V \_\_\_\_\_, K \_\_\_\_\_, T \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_, G \_\_\_\_\_ Brotherly K \_\_\_\_\_, C \_\_\_\_\_

f. What does the Bible say about those who lack these things? (verse 9)

They are \_\_\_\_\_, they cannot \_\_\_\_\_ afar off (they cannot see eternal things).

They have \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus died to cleanse them from their \_\_\_\_\_ and they continue to live in slavery to Satan.

g. What is the promise to those who do these things? (verse 10)

The promise is that we shall never \_\_\_\_\_. If we diligently cling to the promises of God and follow Him in faith and virtue, knowledge and temperance, patience and godliness, and brotherly kindness and charity instead of following our own selfish ways, He has promised that HE is ABLE to KEEP us from FALLING (see Jude 24).

h. What is Peter's purpose in reminding us of these things? (verse 12)

To remind us of them so that we will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ truth.

i. What will be the result of following this plan in our lives instead of our own? (verse 11)

We shall have an abundant \_\_\_\_\_ into the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ. This is the purpose of God's plan for us. This is the education that we need in order to fulfill that purpose.

**Note:** "We are God's children. By spiritual adoption we become His sons and daughters. We are to live in conformity to His will, representing Him in life and character. Perfect conformity to the will of God is the condition on which eternal life is given." 12MR 273.1,2

"The great, grand work of bringing out a people who will have **Christlike characters**, and who **will be able to stand in the day of the Lord**, is to be accomplished. As long as we sail with the current of the world we need neither canvas nor oar. It is when we turn squarely about to stem the current that our labors begin. Satan will bring in every kind of theory to pervert the truth. The work will go hard, for since the fall of Adam it has been the fashion of the world to sin. **But Christ is on the field of action.** The Holy Spirit is at work. **Divine agencies are combining with the human in reshaping the character according to the perfect pattern, and man is to work out that which God works in.** Will we as a people do this God-given work? Will we carefully heed all the light that has been given, keeping constantly before us **the one object** of fitting students for the kingdom of God? **If by faith we advance step by step in the right way**, following the Great Leader, **light will shine along our pathway**; and circumstances will occur to remove the difficulties. The **approval of God** will give hope, and **ministering angels will co-operate with us**, bringing light and grace, and courage and gladness." 6T 129.2

4. What should be the foundation of our faith? 1 Corinthians 2:5 Our faith should not be founded in the wisdom of \_\_\_\_\_, but in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Why?

1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

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**Note:** "We are under solemn, sacred covenant to God to bring up our children **for Him and not for the world**; to teach them **not to put their hands into the hand of the world**, but **to love and fear God**, and **to keep His commandments**. They should be impressed with the thought that they are formed in the image of their Creator and that **Christ is the pattern** after which they are to be fashioned. **Most earnest attention must be given to the education which will impart a knowledge of salvation, and will conform the life and character to the divine similitude**. It is the love of God, the purity of soul woven into the life like **threads of gold**, that is of **true worth**. The height man may thus reach has not been fully realized. 6T 127.1

"For the accomplishment of this work a broad foundation must be laid. A new purpose must be brought in and find place, and **students must be aided in applying Bible principles in all they do**. Whatever is crooked, whatever is twisted out of the right line, is to be plainly pointed out and avoided; for it is iniquity not to be perpetuated. 6T 127.2

"... He has revealed His law and shown us the truth for this time. This truth is constantly unfolding, and God designs that we shall be intelligent in regard to it, **that we may be able to distinguish between right and wrong, between righteousness and unrighteousness.**" 6T 127.3

5. How do we get real wisdom? James 1:5 "If any of you lack \_\_\_\_\_, let him \_\_\_\_\_ of God, that \_\_\_\_\_ to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it \_\_\_\_\_ be given him."

Proverbs 23:12 "A \_\_\_\_\_ thine heart unto \_\_\_\_\_, and thine ears to the words of \_\_\_\_\_." You must apply yourself to get it. That means that you put effort into it, you participate in the learning process. Then you must make this wisdom a part of your everyday life for it to do you any good.

6. Where is God's wisdom found? 1 Corinthians 1:24 "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." Colossians 2:3 "In \_\_\_\_\_ are hid \_\_\_\_\_ the treasures of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." And He tells us in John 5:39 "\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which \_\_\_\_\_ of me."

Christ is the source of all true W\_\_\_\_\_ and K\_\_\_\_\_ and it is the S\_\_\_\_\_ that testify of Him. So He tells us to S\_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures.

7. What is real wisdom like?

a. 2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ." The glory of God is His character. This knowledge is found in beholding Christ. When we study the character of Christ as it is revealed in the Bible we will learn the wisdom that comes from Him.

b. James 3:17 "But the \_\_\_\_\_ that is from above is first \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and easy to be entreated, full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

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c. Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever things are \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever things are \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever things are \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever things are of \_\_\_\_\_ report; if there be any \_\_\_\_\_, and if there be any \_\_\_\_\_, think on these things." God's wisdom is full of these good things. We must **choose** to THINK about them!

d. Romans 11:33 "O the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ both of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his \_\_\_\_\_ past finding out!" God's wisdom is infinite. You can never exhaust it.

**Note:** "The **highest class of education** is that which will give such knowledge and discipline as will lead to the **best development of character**, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God. **Eternity is not to be lost out of our reckoning**. The highest education is that which will teach our children and youth **the science of Christianity**, which will give them an **experimental knowledge of God's ways**, and will impart to them the lessons that Christ gave to His disciples of the paternal **character of God**." CG 296.4 An "experimental knowledge of God's ways" is a knowledge that you not only know in your head, but one that you also experience in your life. This is the only kind of knowledge that will do you any good.

"Our lifework here is a **preparation for the life eternal**. The education begun here will not be completed in this life; **it will be going forward through all eternity** -- ever progressing, never completed. More and more fully will be revealed the wisdom and love of God in the plan of redemption. The Saviour, as He leads His children to the fountains of living waters, **will impart rich stores of knowledge**. And day by day the wonderful works of God, the evidences of His power in creating and sustaining the universe, will open before the mind in new beauty. In the light that shines from the throne, mysteries will disappear, and the soul will be filled with astonishment at the simplicity of the things that were never before comprehended." CG 298.4

**Heart education is of more importance than the education gained from books.** It is well, even essential, to obtain a knowledge of the world in which we live; but if we leave eternity out of our reckoning, we shall make a failure from which we can never recover." CG 497.3

"Unless the knowledge of science is a **stepping stone** to the attainment of the highest purposes, it is worthless. **The education that does not furnish knowledge as enduring as eternity, is of no purpose.** Unless you keep heaven and the future, immortal life before you, your attainments are of no permanent value. But **if Jesus is your teacher**, not simply on one day of the week, but **every day, every hour**, you may have his smile upon you in the pursuit of literary acquirements." CE 89.2

8. How important is it to get God's wisdom?

a. 2 Peter 3:18 "But \_\_\_\_\_ in grace, and in the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." We need it to grow as His children.

b. Proverbs 16:16 "How much \_\_\_\_\_ is it to get \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_! and to get \_\_\_\_\_ rather to be chosen than \_\_\_\_\_!" It is more valuable than silver or gold!

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c. Proverbs 18:15 "The heart of the \_\_\_\_\_ getteth knowledge; and the ear of the \_\_\_\_\_ seeketh knowledge." It is very wise to seek God's wisdom.

d. 1 Timothy 2:4 "Who will have \_\_\_\_\_ men to be saved, and to come unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth." God wants all of us to learn His wisdom. We need it to be saved.

e. Proverbs 3:13 "\_\_\_\_\_ is the man that findeth \_\_\_\_\_, and the man that getteth \_\_\_\_\_." God's wisdom brings us true joy and fulfillment.

**Note:** "True education is the preparation of the physical, mental, and moral powers for the performance of every duty; it is the training of body, mind, and soul for divine service. This is the education that will endure unto eternal life." COL 330.3

9. How long do we need to seek God's wisdom? Ephesians 4:13

"Till we \_\_\_\_\_ come in the unity of the \_\_\_\_\_,

And of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God,

Unto a \_\_\_\_\_ man,

Unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ:"

**Note:** "For this time **light is shining from the throne of God** upon His people, and He sends His messengers to give that light to the world. **All the light** given in different ages to the children of men, -- in promises, in prophecies, in threatenings, in testimony, and in example, -- **all has been handed down to this generation** by Him in whom are hid 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' But **from this source new light is constantly received by the Christian**, showing yet more clearly the way to heaven. To those who will not see the light, who **refuse to walk in the path it reveals**, the light becomes darkness; but on the path of him who is **willing to see, anxious to hear, and earnest in search for the truth** as it is in Jesus, it shines with increasing brightness. The Lord accepts those who are **not only willing to hear, but who are ready also to obey.**" *Bible Echo*, January 4, 1897 par. 4

10. Why will the New Earth be such a wonderful place?

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ [character] of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Everyone will have the knowledge of the character of Jesus and this knowledge will be their everyday experience. They will have an "experimental knowledge of the ways of God."

11. And so, Isaiah 11:9 tells us that "They shall not \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

12. "**Great is the reward in heaven** of those who are witnesses for Christ through persecution and reproach. While the people are looking for earthly good, **Jesus points them to a heavenly reward**. But He does not place it all in the future life; **it begins here**."

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The Lord appeared of old time to Abraham and said, 'I am thy \_\_\_\_\_, and thy exceeding great \_\_\_\_\_.' Genesis 15:1. This is the reward of all who follow Christ. Jehovah Immanuel – He 'in whom are hid **all** the treasures of \_\_\_\_\_ and knowledge,' in whom dwells 'all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Godhead bodily' (Col. 2:3, 9) – to be brought into sympathy with Him, to know Him, to possess Him, as the heart opens more and more **to receive His attributes**; to know His love and power, to possess the unsearchable riches of Christ, to comprehend more and more 'what is the **breadth**, and **length**, and **depth**, and **height**; and to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be \_\_\_\_\_ with all the fullness of God' (Ephesians 3:18, 19) – 'this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord.' Isaiah 54:17." MB 34.1