

YEAR OF GROWTH

KNOWLEDGE WEEK 1

EXPLANATION

Definitions:

The Greek word used in 1 Peter 1:5-6 means “knowledge; the act of knowing; thus, intelligence or understanding.” This word is found 29 times in the New Testament. In the KJV it is translated as “knowledge” 28 times and as “science” once (1 Timothy 6:20).

The word ‘knowledge’ from this and other Greek words is found 52 times in the New Testament. It is found 120 times in the Old Testament – for a total of 172 uses in the Bible. The first reference is to the “tree of knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:9). This Hebrew word for knowledge means, “Knowledge, perception, discernment, or understanding.”

Closely related to knowledge is wisdom, which we will consider in this study as well.

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the previous lessons concerning faith and virtue. It is in our faith and to our faith that we are to add knowledge. Think upon the definitions of the words that God used to describe knowledge. Pray for wisdom in understanding this characteristic. Pray for strength as you prepare for this study.

Day Two – Monday

Luke 11:44-54

Jesus accused the lawyers (doctors of the Law of Moses) of taking away the “key of knowledge.” The Pharisees illustrated the danger of this by their hypocrisy (deception and dishonesty in pretending to be something they were not). It was like walking over a grave that was not marked clearly (vs. 44).

The lawyers took away the key of knowledge by three means. First, they honored their fathers who had killed the prophets of God – thereby approving of their actions (vs. 47-48). Second, they twisted the Law of Moses to fit their own doctrines and desires (vs. 46). Finally, they sought to convince others to reject Jesus and His Gospel (vs. 52).

The key of knowledge is Truth. Whenever it is oppressed, censored, or silenced, knowledge is hindered or destroyed. When it is twisted or altered it produces a false knowledge. Thus, God charges us to “buy the truth, and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23).

Day Three – Tuesday

Psalm 19

Observation is a source of knowledge. David declared that by looking at the material Creation one could gain knowledge of God and His glory. This information is good and powerful, but it is not sufficient. The psalm ends by extolling the Word of God – the true source of knowledge about Jehovah (vs. 7-14; cf. Romans 1:18-20).

Day Four – Wednesday

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Paul wrote that God had given the “light of knowledge” unto man. He was referring to his preaching of the Gospel. The message that Paul preached came by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote that message in his letter to the Corinthians (cf. Eph. 3:1-4). Thus, the Word of God is the light of knowledge. If we desire that knowledge today, we must read and study the Bible. The gift of miraculous knowledge has ended (cf. 1 Cor. 12:8; 13:2, 8-13). Dedicated study is required to find the light of knowledge.

Day Five – Thursday

Psalm 139

God is omniscient – He knows all. Yet, there are some things that man cannot know. As David wrote: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me!” (cf. Deut. 29:29). However, God has revealed all that we need to know, especially concerning salvation (2 Pet. 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). We must continue to gain and maintain this knowledge by study.

Day Six – Friday

Ephesians 3:14-21

Even though we cannot know all that God knows, we can know things that surpass knowledge. Though the love of Jesus never can be fully comprehended, we can come to know it. And we can know it even more deeply as we grow in our knowledge! This is a spiritual knowledge that comes only from study of God’s Word and fellowship with Him (cf. Col. 1:9-10). Yet, the more we know, the more we realize we do not know.

Day Seven – Saturday

Proverbs 2

Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge to lead the nation of Israel, and he was granted both (2 Chronicles 1:10-12). There is a clear relationship between the two characteristics. Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge. True wisdom can come only from God (Prov. 2:6). Thus, as we grow in knowledge, we must also learn to use it correctly. By so doing we will also grow in wisdom.