

Knowledge Is Power!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **Francis Bacon**, 16th-17th century English philosopher, wrote, “**knowledge is power**” in *Meditationes Sacrae*
 - **Rom. 1:16** **truism in life, religion**

- - **illus.: Jalen, Elizabeth City, N.C., 5-year-old boy called 911** when mother went into an epileptic seizure (8/2/08), **saved mother**
 - **knowledge is power to save lives**

- - **this lesson: Knowledge Is Power!**

- **God’s desire is for all men to come to the knowledge of the truth**
 - **1 Tim. 2:4** God “**desires** all men to be **saved**, and **come to the knowledge of the truth.**”
- - **Ho. 6:6** “For I **delight in** loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the **knowledge of God** rather than burnt offerings.”
 - **illus.: church worship** without knowledge of God is displeasing to God

- - **God is the source of knowledge, His word**
 - **Pr. 2:6** “For the LORD gives wisdom; **from His mouth come knowledge** and understanding.”
- - **Jn. 17:17b** “Your **word is truth.**”

- **when you study God’s word and meditate on it, increasing in knowledge . . . pleasing God**
 - when you prepare for Bible class. . . .
 - when you come to Bible class. . . .
 - when you engage in personal Bible study. . . .

➤ **Proper attitude required before we're able to come to the knowledge of the truth**

- fear the Lord

- **Pr. 1:7** fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge

- must have proper attitude before knowledge – reverence, respect, fear – **2 Cor. 5:10**

➤ - **Pr. 1:29-30** they (naive, scoffers, fools) hated knowledge, not choose the fear of the Lord

- wrong attitude results in rejecting knowledge of God, word

➤ - buy the truth – do whatever necessary to obtain and keep

- **Pr. 23:23** buy truth, not sell

- buy: no personal cost too much to obtain and retain truth

- not sell: truth more valuable than anything else we could possess

- parable: Jesus, pearl, found one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it

➤ - love the truth (word, knowledge of God)

- **2 Th. 2:10-12** love truth or lost

- love (agape): commitment to truth to obey at any cost

- love truth = obey - **2 Th. 1:8**)

- illus.: martyr of Polycarp – die for truth / love truth

- application:

- guard ourselves, keep proper attitude, teach children

- love truth / love Bible / love to study and learn – fear God – buy truth and not sell

- pray for ourselves and others for proper attitude – evangelism

➤ **Knowledge is necessary to be saved**

- set free from sin

- **Jn. 8:31-32** know the truth - truth set you free (sin, hell) – knowledge of truth necessary for salvation

- must know the truth to obey the truth

- **1 Pet. 1:22** must obey the truth to be saved

- **Jn.17:17** truth is God's word

- must know God's word to be saved

➤ - **2 Pet. 2:20a** escape the defilements of the world by knowledge

- without knowledge of God's will, lost eternally

➤ - destroyed for lack of knowledge

- **Ho. 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge. . . .”

➤ - illus. Jews: **Rom. 10:2** “For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”

- illus.: Andrea Bennett, 20-years-old, unborn son died, pre-eclampsia – didn't know – baby still died

- many may say at judgment, “I didn't know!” – destroyed for a lack of knowledge – **Matt. 7:21-23**

➤ - Our responsibility is to hear, learn, understand, and know God's word – church, personal, Bible study

- **Col. 1:5-7a, 9a** Colossians heard in the word of truth (gospel), understood, learned, filled with the knowledge of

His will – cf. illus. Andrea Bennett, now trying to get the word out about pre-eclampsia

- **We grow spiritually and God empowers us through the knowledge of God's word**
 - **love abounds**
 - **Phil. 1:9** “And this I pray, that your **love may abound still more and more in real knowledge. . . .**”
 - *epignosis*: true knowledge makes our love abound – **faith works through love**
 - **1 Cor. 8:1b** “**Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.**”
 - *gnosis*: mere intellect (knowledge), without love, result sin arrogance
 - - **spiritual growth – epignosis**
 - **2 Pet. 3:18a** “but **grow** in the **grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
 - *epignosis*: spiritual growth
 - - **2 Pet. 1:2-4 blessings**: grace and peace multiplied, divine power, everything, granted promises, partakers of divine nature – **knowledge (epignosis)**
 - - **2 Pet. 1:5-8 components: eight graces** – all eight working together, diligent, increasing = *epignosis*
 - **2 Pet. 1:8a, 10-11** result
 - - **strength, empowered by God**
 - **Col. 1:5-9 (above)** responsible to **learn, understand, and know God's word**
 - - **Col. 1:9-11**
 - **vs. 9, 10** filled with knowledge, increasing in the knowledge of God – **knowledge (epignosis)**
 - **vs. 10b-11** walk in worthy manner, pleasing God in all respects, strengthened with all power, steadfast and patient, joyously
 - - **1 Th. 2:13** God's word performs it's work in those who believe
- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **knowledge in power**
 - **our job**: diligently study and learn God's word, honestly and sincerely applying it to lives
 - **God**: bless us with spiritual grow and strength, as His word performs its work within us
 - **inv.:** attitude, knowledge, obey