

# Christian Characteristics

## Knowledge

### Introduction

#### 2 Peter 1:5-10

1. **Our virtue (courage) that we gain is of little benefit without the knowledge to go along with it.**  
**Romans 10:1-3**
2. **We should pursue knowledge from our childhood to old age. We are never too old to learn.**
3. **It is not surprising that knowledge is given as a Christian characteristic.**
4. **We might be worldly wise but destitute of the knowledge of God.**

1 Timothy 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 6:20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

- What is knowledge?
  - **Read from the chart**

## **Knowledge Commanded**

### **1. Commanded by the apostle Peter.**

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

### **2. Commanded by the apostle Paul.**

Romans 16:19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but **I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.**

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but **in understanding be mature.**

### **Hebrews 5:12-14**

## Things We Need to Know

### 1. The Will of God (Matthew 7:21) --- Very Important!

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

#### A. We can't even become Christians otherwise.

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, **yet you obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

#### B. We can't live as a Christian without knowledge.

Colossians 1:9-10 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

### 2. The Love of Christ.

#### Ephesians 3:17-19

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

#### John 14:1-3

### **3. The Hope of God's Calling.**

Ephesians 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

**A. It is an anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19)**

**B. One hope of our calling (Ephesians 4:4).**

### **4. The Greatness of His Power.**

Ephesians 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

**A. That He raised and exalted Christ.**  
**Ephesians 1:20-22**

**B. And will likewise raise us.**

1 Corinthians 6:14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

## Why We Need to Know These Things

### 1. Because ignorance of His will, will not excuse us.

#### A. Ignorance alienates us from God.

Ephesians 4:18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart;

#### B. All are commanded to repent.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent:

C. **Paul prayed that ignorant people would be saved as we read in our opening text.** "...For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

### 2. Because hope influences us.

#### A. That there is more to life than here on earth.

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

1Thessalonians 4:13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

### **3. Because His power has given all we need.**

#### **2 Peter 1:3**

#### **B. The knowledge of His power increases our faith.**

## **The Source of Our Knowledge**

A Father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His Father smiled and replied, "ok son, what does it mean?" The boy replied, "it stands for **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.**"

#### **1. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ (Col 2:3).**

#### **2. These treasures of wisdom are only obtained through study.**

Psalms 119:104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:15 and **that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

## Results of Knowledge

### 1. It should cause us to grow.

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

#### A. How?

1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire** the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

### 2. It increases our responsibility.

#### **Luke 12:41-48**

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

## Conclusion

### 1. We are often responsible for our own ignorance.

Romans 1:28 And even as they **did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Matthew 13:15 For the **hearts of this people have grown dull**. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

### 2. Eternity will be determined based upon our knowledge of God's word and how we then apply it in our life.

- **Let us NOT "mature in our weakness"**

