

Learning About Learning

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. There are three means of learning, whether secular or spiritual study:
Prov. 2:6, 24:3-4 - The Lord gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding
 - 1. Knowledge is the comprehension of facts. It fills our minds with useful and orderly information
 - 2. Understanding is the reasoning of relationships between units of knowledge. Reasoning and logic form the basis of our apprehension and ordering of knowledge. Together, knowledge and understanding create learning
 - 3. Wisdom is the application of learning. It is how putting learning to beneficial, healthy, purposeful uses.
- B. These three principles are often related in multiple scripture passages.

I. KNOWLEDGE

- A. Hannah recognized that God is a God of knowledge - 1Sam. 2:3
- B. God is the First Cause Teacher of knowledge - Psalm 94:10
- C. Fools hate knowledge - Prov. 1:22
- D. Some people learn, but are never filled with knowledge - 2Tim. 3:7
- E. Children begin without knowledge of good or evil; must be taught - Deut. 1:39
- F. Knowledge is a means, not an end - Ecc. 1:18; 1Cor. 8:1

II. UNDERSTANDING

- A. Offer reasonable and rational service to God - Rom. 12:1
- B. Judge between good and evil - Heb. 5:11-14
- C. Discover what is acceptable to God - Eph. 5:10
- D. Accept scripture as it is; make no attempt to adjust it - 2Peter 3:16
- E. Use godly reasoning - 2Cor. 10:3-5
 - 1. Answer from a well-informed, well-reasoned faith - 1Peter 3:15
 - 2. From rich knowledge and deep understanding, use persuasive, passionate appeals to unbelievers - 2Cor. 5:11
- F. Examples:
 - 1. Paul - Acts 17:2, 18:4, 19:8
 - 2. Apollos - Acts 18:28
- G. We must teach our children, not just the facts of the Scriptures, but also how to reason, how to construct logical arguments, how to see the flaws in the reasoning of those in error. Teach them to think for themselves, to reason from the scriptures, not merely recite them

III. WISDOM

- A. Start with asking God - James 1:5
- B. Proceed with reverencing God - Prov. 9:10
- C. Maintain the right spirit - Prov. 14:6-8, 33; 2Tim. 4:3-4
- D. Remember that God has overthrown worldly wisdom - 1Cor. 1:20-21

IV. ALL THREE MEANS ARE ESSENTIAL

- A. Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead the people - 2Chron. 1:10
- B. Get truth, wisdom, discipline, understanding, and help make pleasant the lives of others around you - Prov. 23:23-25
- C. Paul was confident that the Romans were full of knowledge and able to persuade and admonish others - Rom. 15:14
- D. Wisdom, knowledge, a plan, and understanding will protect us from evil - Prov. 2:10-15
- E. Prayers for knowledge, understanding, and wisdom should be offered continually for ourselves and others - Col. 1:9-10