

# The Old Paths

Volume 11, Issue 28

September 5, 2004

## “Knowledge And Wisdom Needed!!”

Jarrold Jacobs

**I**t is apparent that there is a great need for Biblical knowledge and wisdom. Sadly, it seems that the longer men continue on this earth, the less knowledge we have! We know that not everyone has the Biblical knowledge they ought, for even in Old Testament days, there were those whom God considered fools (Ps. 14:1; Prov. 10:21, 12:23, 13:20, etc.). This same type of people are around today.

Yet, if we are going to be the kind of people whom God can use, we need to have a working knowledge of the Bible and have the wisdom to apply what we know! Lacking such knowledge will destroy us (Hosea 4:6). In Solomon's day, he personified wisdom as a woman, crying out for someone to listen to her (Prov. 8). How badly we need to listen to her today! It seems that with the passing of time, those who are God's children become more and more lax. This laziness then passes on to the next generation who become worse than their parents.

Does this mean that all is lost? By no means! Yet, we must be aware of the situation around us. Brethren, open your eyes to what is going on! The world is not coming closer to us, rather we are getting closer to the world! Dangerously close, I am afraid. There is a great need for fathers

and mothers to let their children see them praying (I Thess. 5:17), reading the Bible (Eph. 3:4; I Tim. 4:13), and worshipping God (Jn. 4:24). There is a great need for children to see parents who love one another (Eph. 5:25, 33), and treat their spouse as God would have them treated (Matt. 7:12; I Pet. 3:7). This is because what the parents do now is what the children will become later. We need to be acquainted once more with such passages as: Ephesians 6:4 and Proverbs 22:6 that we might realize the great responsibility we have to our children!

The question has been asked in times past, “What if we devoted no more time to our children's secular education than we do their spiritual education?” I believe this is a valid question. The reason for this is because in many places in our country, there are parents who would march on Washington if they thought their children were not going to get a “proper” education. Yet, many of these same ones think very little about their children's lack of Bible knowledge. This, at times, can be the fault of the Bible class teacher, but I suggest that the majority of the blame must be accepted at home. Why say this? It is because so little is done in the home by way of instructing our children in Bible study, treating one another right, prayers, etc. How can we expect our children to be prepared for the decisions they may face in public when they have not

been taught what is expected of them at home? Simply assuming they know what is expected is not enough!

Brethren, we need to face the truth, and realize that we are not going to live forever. What happens to the Lord's church in the next generation will be a direct result of what we do today! Whether the Lord's church prospers and grows in this area, or whether it dies; whether this congregation shines as a faithful body of God's people or becomes like the denominations of this world will be a direct result of what wisdom and knowledge our young people have of the Scriptures. Again, what interest are we taking with them? What are they seeing at home? What are they being taught?

Someone has said: “It is hard to convince your children that the Lord's work is really important when you are not taking an active part in the work of the church.” He went on to say, “It is hard to convince your children that faithfulness to the Lord is the most important loyalty in life when you permit them to become so involved in the activities of the world that the Lord and His church come second or third.” I might add that it is hard to convince your child that a good understanding of the Bible is necessary when you know so little of the Bible, yourself!

The Bible says that fools hate instruction, they hate wisdom, and knowledge (Prov. 1:7, 22). It is time that we take a serious look at ourselves and see what we are doing. No, it is not too late to change! If we have breath within us, we have time to change and to improve ourselves spiritually. Don't put it off any longer.

The way we can begin to increase our knowledge and wisdom is through a

systematic study of God's word. It begins by opening God's book. Let us stop reading books about the Bible, and read the Bible (Eph. 3:4)! Just sit down for a while, and read God's book. Think carefully about what it is saying, without prejudice, or bias, and be determined to live according to what God's book says! Let us be the kind who will "rightly divide" or "handle accurately" God's word (II Tim. 2:15). Why do this? So we can show our children how to do the same, that they can have the proper knowledge of God's word. Let us teach them how to read and study God's Scripture that they might say with David: "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts" (Ps. 119:98-100).

Friend, what does your child know about the Bible? What wisdom does he/she have? Rest assured, what your children know is in direct proportion to what you know! The more knowledge you have of God's word, and your willingness to apply that knowledge (i.e. wisdom) is a great motivator in wanting your children to learn more. In an age when so many parents wish for their children to have "more" and "better" things than what they did in their youth, why not strive to give your children the best gift of all: knowledge in the Scriptures and wisdom in how to apply them?

No, brethren, all is not lost, yet! There are many who are gifted students of God's will.

There are many today who will stand strong for God's word in the days ahead, and this ought to give us comfort. However, rather than allowing their number to stagnate, or dwindle, why not be busy adding others to their ranks through preaching the gospel (Rom. 1:16) so that the future will see the Lord's church be stronger and stronger in years to come!

## "ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN"

R. L. Whiteside

*"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (II Pet. 2:3).* We are in the habit of saying that God has given us in the gospel everything that is essential to life and godliness; but Peter goes a little farther than that and affirms that God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. There is a difference. To illustrate: There are certain things that are essential to an automobile; and there are other things that pertain to an automobile; but are not essential to it. When you have all things that are essential to an automobile, you can go to a supply

house and purchase a lot of extras that pertain to an automobile. But suppose you have all the essentials of an automobile, and then you add all the things that pertain to an automobile, nothing else could be added that would make it any more complete. God has not only given us all things that are essential to life and godliness, but he has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Do religious people believe it? If so, why all these flummeries that God has said nothing about? If you will read the verse again, you will notice that he has given us all these things through the knowledge of Christ. **The knowledge of Christ** means the knowledge that has been revealed about him — the gospel of Christ. Hence, through the gospel God has not only given us all things that are essential to life and godliness, but all things that pertain to life and godliness. If there is, therefore, anything in your religion that did not come to you through the gospel, it does not so much as pertain to life and godliness. Is it not time to check up on our religion and see if we have anything that we cannot find in the New Testament? Any person of intelligence can do that for himself.

(The Kingdom of Promise And Prophecy, p. 42)

Use This Tool To Teach Others:  
[www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com)



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

### MEETING TIMES:

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **9:30 am**

**Sunday Morning Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **10:20 am**

**Sunday Evening Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 pm**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

**Preacher/Editor:** Jarrod Jacobs

**Phone:** (270) 683-5386

**Website address:** [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) (Updated weekly!)