

How to Get Knowledge

"Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words: "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my Spirit on you; I will make my words known to you" (Prov. 1:20-23).

This is the language of the Lord Jesus Christ, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). This means that there is nothing of any kind whatever that is worthy to be called wisdom, which is not to be found in Christ. Read 1 Cor. 1:22-24: "For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." That is, the wisdom, which the Greeks sought after, is contained only in Christ. Because they sought it in themselves, and not in Christ, the wisdom, which they had, became foolishness. Out of Christ it is impossible to find true wisdom.

True wisdom consists in knowing God. "Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord" (Jer. 9:23, 24). To know God is the sum of all scientific knowledge for Christ, who is the only manifestation of God, is the Source of all creation. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!" "For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:33, 36). Christ is the beginning, the head, or source, of the creation of God. He is "the Beginning of the creation of God" (Rev. 3:14). "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist" (Col. 1:16, 17). Therefore the study of natural science must begin and end with the study of God in Christ.

But Christ is the righteousness of God. Righteousness is the character of God. Therefore no one can know God without knowing His righteousness; and so the study of true science reveals the righteousness of God. And this is wisdom, for "the fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). The knowledge of the righteousness of God is connected with the knowledge of the works of God that we see with our eyes; for the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and the power of God is seen in the things that are made. (Rom. 1:16, 20). Therefore when the Bible speaks of wisdom and knowledge, it means not only the wisdom and knowledge, which would be counted as such by men, but also "all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

All this is summed up in the words of Moses to the children of Israel: "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to *them* in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people'" (Deut. 4:5. 6). They, who keep the commandments of God in fact, will have wisdom, which will excite the wonder of people who do not recognize the source of knowledge.

And now that we have seen what wisdom is let us note the words with which this article begins, to see how it may be obtained. The Lord says, "Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you." That is; those who listen to heed the reproofs of the Lord, will know His words, which are wisdom. "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:6).

The reproofs of the Lord are by the Spirit of the Lord and are given, not for the purpose of taunting us with our failures, or for the purpose of causing us to cringe in terror before Him, but that we may turn from our sins to righteousness. Before He went away, Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit as a Comforter, and the first thing that He was to do was to convince the world of sin. This He does by revealing the righteousness of God. These reproofs come in various ways, according to the sin and the peculiarity of the person. They are not simply of a general nature, but they come home to the individual, pointing out specific acts of wrong, and saying, "You are the man."

It is naturally a severe trial to any one to receive a sharp reproof, because it cuts directly across self. But no matter how cutting it may be, and even though the Lord has allowed the knowledge of our failing to come to us through an unfriendly source, it is the part of wisdom to heed it. To heed it means to forsake the evil, and that can be done only through Christ, for it is the blood of Christ alone that cleanses from all sin. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). The promise is that those who turn at the reproof of wisdom shall have the words of wisdom made known unto them.

Not only will such a one have the words of the Lord, —the words of wisdom, —told to him, but also he will have them made known to him. In this is found the secret of the failure of many to understand the Bible. They are cherishing some sin, or they are unwilling to keep all the commandments of God, and consequently cannot know the meaning of the words of wisdom. **Self stands in the way.** Christ said that if any man had a mind to do the Father's will, he should know of the doctrine. (John 7:17). "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way" (Ps. 25:9).

Surely the result is worth all that it costs, even though the lesson is a trying one. The **pain comes only in the letting go of self.** When one has once yielded fully to the Lord; the reproofs of the Lord are pleasant. **When self is dead, they are not hurt by reproofs.** Instead of mourning over the reproof, because of wounded pride; he will delight himself in the increased knowledge of God. Try it, all you who wish that you

might understand the Bible. Let your doubts go to the winds. Let your own foolish wisdom, which would lead you to hesitate to receive the word of God, if it is contrary to your preconceived opinion, give place to the meekness of wisdom. In short; let your own opinions go entirely, and do not try to draw conclusions according to your own wisdom, but let God teach you at every step of the way. When you cannot see how a certain statement harmonizes with another, do not get impatient, and begin to doubt, but wait in faith, and God will explain it to you. Do not be afraid of waiting awhile. It may be that the Lord has some other lesson for you to learn before you can understand this one. Wait only on the Lord, and His words will explain themselves. "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things" (2 Tim. 2:7).

Apples of Gold Library
Pacific Press Publishing Co, Oakland, Cal.
September 1893.