

COME, EAT AND DRINK

“Come, eat of the bread and drink of the wine which I have mingled.” (Proverbs 9:5)

When Solomon penned the words above he was personifying wisdom. That is, he was quoting from wisdom as if wisdom itself could speak. The thought behind this passage is that men should come to wisdom’s table and enjoy all of the benefits available there. He calls upon man to make good use of the wisdom that is available to man as a gift from God. Likewise, James prompts the Christian to seek after wisdom also and to beg for wisdom from God. He writes *“If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him”* (James 1:5). Wisdom is to be desired for it is valuable and brings great riches to those who possess it. Again, writing as wisdom, Solomon says, *“My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold, and my revenue [is better] than choice silver”* (Proverbs 8:19). A prudent, thoughtful man will seek for the wisdom of the ages and drink deeply at the fount from whence it flows. But first, a man must seek knowledge.

Some will remark that knowledge and wisdom are not the same, that wisdom determines how we use knowledge that we possess. They continue by saying that knowledge is little more than a collection of facts. We concur but remind the reader that wisdom demands knowledge upon which it can act. A man may truly have knowledge without wisdom but no wise man has ever been ignorant. This brings us to the heart of our discussion today. How is it that man can acquire both wisdom and knowledge that will profit him both in our world today and in the world to come?

Knowledge can be acquired two ways. One can attain great knowledge through the observation of daily life. A man may become a fine student of human nature through watching people go about their routine activities. Spiritually, one is overwhelmed with the knowledge of God by observing nature. David says *“the heavens declare the glory of God, the firmament showeth his handywork”* (Psalm 19:1). Paul asserts *“the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...”* (Romans 1:20). While the presence of God may be seen by simple observation, God cannot be understood by observation alone. Knowledge of his goodness, mercy, love and his plan for man can only be learned through study. Likewise, an in-depth knowledge of the world around us can only be learned through intensive study.

Solomon affirms that *“much study is a weariness of the flesh”* (Ecclesiastes 12:12) and Paul encourages study so that one can be *“approved unto God”* (2 Timothy 2:15). The life of a disciple requires hard work and study even when other activities beckon and when the flesh calls for rest. It is not an overstatement to say that the study of God’s inspired word ought to take precedence over every worldly consideration. Relaxation and recreation must never assume a place of priority. Likewise, career building, secular education and the pursuit of gain can never replace the importance of our Bible study.

So many diminish the importance of Bible classes as a way to better understand Scripture as evidenced by their poor attendance at Sunday and Wednesday Bible study. Is it really so difficult to arrive at the building just one hour earlier on Sunday? Is one hour too much to spare

on Wednesday night? We can and should do better. Can we count on you seeing you
Wednesday night? How about next Sunday morning? Come, eat and drink deeply of the
knowledge offered and the wisdom that comes through the knowledge of God's word.

Bryant Evans