**Knowledge & Self-control.**

**Knowledge**

Proverbs 10:14 Wise men store up knowledge.

1. Knowledge of God.

2. Knowledge of God’s word.

3. Knowledge generally.

Knowledge kind of like the thing with a lot of drawers. You never know when you will want to use it.

I think this sort of thing takes two things:

A. A real and absolute commitment.

B. Hard work. (sounds like repentance and discipleship!)

1. **Love God with all your mind.** Luke 10:27 Think. Contemplate. Ask questions. Keep a list of difficult questions and do the research until you find those answers.

Do not be lazy intellectually. Desire to take it deeper. Heb 5:11-15

A lot of us use up our mental energy in our classes… When it comes to quiet times, we go into cruise control.

Ex: What is the theme of the Book of Amos?

Always be prepared to give an answer….

I have had about 10,000 Quiet times. What am I learning?

2. **Develop David’s Psalm 119 attitude**.

Psalm 119:97 Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

Psalm 119:72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

Psalm 119:9 How can a young person keep himself pure? By living according to your word.

3. For myself…. **Have a sense of adventure**. Teach someone…. Write a lesson. Get a commentary…. Think about things you are not naturally prone to think about.

For me, this is the biggest key. Illustration: Marriage. What if you always do the exact same thing all the time. What if you ate Wheaties every day?

Be open-minded so you can be closed-minded.

Do NOT assume that what you were raised with spiritually is true.

But do not be so open-minded that your brains fall out. Remember those things which are definitely true so that you do not step on land-mines.

Why do we do such and such?

4. **Have a plan**. Plan for variety. Keep a journal. Keep track of your progress.

a. Just read. (Chronological Bible, read Bible in a year, different translations)

b. Deep involved study of a book.

c. Study out a particular doctrine in detail. (grace vs. works, predestination)

d. Side reading: history, science, philosophy, other religions.

Understand: The Bible is an incredibly deep well. You are learning about God. Be humble please. Do you realize how deep a well you are plumbing?

5. **Practicals.**

a. Memorize scripture. Learn locations. Make your own outlines of books.

b. Learn how to study the Bible (hermeneutics) Develop those skills.

(Fee: How to Study the Bible for all it’s Worth.)

c. 1. Ask the right questions. Ex. Is this a command, a principle, or just a practical example of good wisdom.

Ex. 2 Cor 6:14f Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.

Ex. The early church met in house churches.

Ex. Heb 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together.

Is this an essential teaching, an important teaching or an unimportant teaching?

Ex. The place of grace and works in our salvation.

How often we ought to partake in the Lord’s Supper.

How old the earth is.

**HERMENEUTICS**

**Hermeneutics:** The systematic study of the principles and methods of interpretation of the Bible.

**Exegesis:** Explaining the meaning of the text; i.e. what the author meant when he wrote to the people of his day.

**Homiletics:** Practical application of the meaning of the text for us today.

**Eisegesis:** Reading a meaning into the text which was not in the original (because of a bias of the interpreter). This is not a good thing!

**Rules of Interpretation**:

1. Every passage has one meaning.

2. The most obvious meaning is usually the correct one.

3. Always allow the author’s explanation to stand.

4. Always interpret a passage within the context of the passage, the book, and the situation.

5. An interpretation of a passage should conform to the environment of the author.

6. Rightly divide books by dispensation, covenant and setting.

7. Interpret every passage in the light of all others.

8. One passage will often explain another.

9. Let plain passages interpret difficult ones.

10. All passages on a subject must be studied before a conclusion is drawn.

11. Observe the proper balance of scriptural truth.

12. Passages should be interpreted in harmony with the idioms contained.

13. Rightly divide the language (grammar and figures of speech).

14. Learn to distinguish the figurative from the literal.

15. Know the meaning of sentences, phrases and words.

16. Rightly divide books by type of literature (poetry, apocalyptic, historical, doctrinal, etc.).

Review: Hebrews 5:12-14 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by ***constant use have trained themselves*** to distinguish good from evil.

This verse combines the charge to grow in knowledge and training ourselves to avoid evil and to do good (self-control)

**Self-Control**

Add to your knowledge self-control. Without self-control, your knowledge will not be productive (v. 8)

Self-control is like a **torque wrench**.or a **crow bar** The more self-control, the more work you can do for God.

2 Timothy 1:7 God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but one of power, love and self-control. If we will listen, the Holy Spirit will prompt us to not go there, to not buy that, to not flip to that channel or go to that web site.

How does this work? The Holy Spirit will remind us. He will prompt us.

Don’t go there. Keep going. Stay in the game.

Q: What are some areas in our lives in which we need self-control?

Studying

Working out

Thinking before speaking

Saying foolish or hurtful things

Getting up

Going to bed

Eating

But, will you listen? Will you heed that voice?

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No!” to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

This passage suggests a motive for our self-control.

The world knows a little bit about self-control, but they do not have the gasoline additive of the grace of God.

How will you stay away from those web sites?

How will you control your over-eating?

Remember the grace of God. It teaches you to say “No!”

Self control is like the **gasoline additive**. It is what makes everything work so much better.

Proverbs 16:32 Better is a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.

Self-control is like a **crow bar** The more self-control, the more work you can do for God.

How much talent is wasted by lack of self-control? How much will you be used by God? Does it depend principally on your gifts? No!!!! On your self-control.

Unrequited genius is a very familiar story.

Knowledge is like the weapon, but without self-control, you cannot wield the weapon effectively.

On the other hand,

Proverbs 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

A lack of self-control in our schedule, our cleanliness, our spiritual disciplines, our eating, our exercise, etc is like leaving the back door open to Satan.

There are a LOT of things I need to work on, but this is one of my strengths. It has not always been that way.

Ex. Learning to be precise and careful as a chemist during my sophomore year.

That is a BC example, but I have carried it through.

For me: Running every week for 30+ years.

I have taken one sick day in 33 years of working.

John: How do you do so many things—writing books, traveling, web site, professor, lead Bible group, shepherd singles, run Christian evidences ministry, put on annual conferences, maintain Christian evidence web site….

My answer: self-control.

You can probably make it to heaven without self-control, but life will be so much more fulfilling if you have it.

Proverbs 12:1 He who loves discipline loves knowledge.

There is a synergy between discipline/self-control and knowledge. The “knowledge” in mind here is probably wisdom.

Discussion Questions:

On a scale from one to 10, overall, where do you think you are in the broad areas of self-control.

Name two specific areas of self-control you will work on in the next one to six months.