

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

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Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding

Stock markets and the commodities and exchange commission places a present value on stocks, bonds, and commodities such as gold, silver, platinum, copper, and iron. There are treasures; however, that no earthly market or appraiser can measure. These treasures have no earthly standard but rather they are measured by God. This priceless treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:7). The Apostle Paul refers to the gospel message as “*treasures of wisdom and knowledge*” (Col. 2:3). The prophet Isaiah declared that the treasures of God’s wisdom and knowledge will be a source of future stability to those who fear Him (Isa. 33:6). Those who gain **wisdom** and **knowledge** have stored up for themselves treasures that exceed the worth of “*gold and the abundance of rubies*” (Prov. 20:15). Solomon writes, “*Wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared unto it*” (Prov. 3:15; 8:11). Job also writes, “*The price of wisdom is above rubies*” (Job 28:18). Wisdom and knowledge are superior to earthly treasures because the treasures of this earth have a limited life expectancy (James 5:3). Worldly treasures will not only corrupt and rust with time but they will also be of no value in eternity (Job 1:21; Matt. 6:20; James 5:3). Heavenly treasure; however, will sustain man into eternity (Matt. 19:21).

Man will not find the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in the mine shafts of this earth (see Job 28:1ff). The treasures of God’s word will be found through tireless efforts on the part of the Lord’s disciples. Those who love God and his truths will be diligent in their efforts to gain this treasure (see II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 2:2ff). True gospel treasures are not segregated into sections of knowledge and wisdom but rather come as a package deal for the true obtainer. Knowledge without wisdom and understanding

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Take time to add our new converts' addresses to your directory (posted in the foyer).

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

Nina Gray traveled to Fort Worth this past Tuesday and saw another neuro-ophthalmologist but did not receive any better news. Nina has decided to not have surgery on her eye in hopes that it will not get any worse. She has been given new eye-drops that seem to be lowering the pressure in the eye.

Pam Husak has had a set back with the wound that she has battled for a lengthy amount of time. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Women's Bible Study:

The next Bible class will be Friday April 10th at 12:30 PM. The class meets at the church building with Kasey Robertson doing the teaching.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

is fruitless as far as eternity to goes (Job 34:35). Job summarizes the immeasurable value of wisdom by saying, "*Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding*" (Job 28:28).

The immeasurable value of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding is depicted in the fear of God. Those who fear God will "*depart from evil*" (see above Job 28:28). Solomon writes, "*The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil: Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth, do I hate*" (Prov. 8:13). Again, Solomon wrote, "*The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; but the fool despise wisdom and instruction*" (Prov. 1:7). Solomon connected a "*fear of Jehovah*" with "*wisdom*" and "*instruction.*" Solomon again writes, "*Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man*" (Eccl. 12:13). Man evidences his fear toward God when gratefully submitting to His commandments (see Deut. 5:29; 6:2; Rev. 14:17 comp. to John 15:5-10) and, as stated above, by instilling a passionate hatred for sin within the heart (See also Deut. 7:26 and Rom. 12:9). To know the laws of God and to faithfully act on them is wisdom defined. The apostle Paul wrote, "*For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified*" (Rom. 2:13). James writes, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves*" (see James 1:22-25). Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding make itself manifest in a man or woman's life by their obedient acts. When the Christian is tempted by Satan's tools of discouragement, lusts, covetousness, fear of men, pride, arrogance, and so forth they will illustrate their fear, wisdom, knowledge and understanding by turning away from the sin. The man of understanding knows the eternal value of God's divine revelation and thereby shall shun every evil way (see Job 31:1ff).

The conclusion is simple. Those who truly obtain wisdom, knowledge, and understanding are those who are obedient to God's word. Obedience to the treasures of God's divine revelation is the condition of man's salvation. Those who receive the treasures of heaven will figure this out and do all within their power to obtain it (see Matt. 13:44). Paul prayed that the Colossians would be filled with wisdom and knowledge and so must our prayer be today for all mankind (Col. 1:9).

Robertson

John C.

Romans 14

The Unity in Diversity Controversy

Introduction:

Romans chapter 14 continues the thought of Christian duties in light of our justification by faith through God's grace. One would not be persuaded to follow such selfless instructions were it not for the love, mercy and grace of God. God has made provisions for man in heaven therefore we obey him in hope of receiving those provisions.

Paul discussed the Christians relationship toward each other in 12:10-21. He now delineates the brethren into two classes. There is a strong brother and a weak brother (14:1; 15:1). Each has a responsibility toward each other in the realm of *adiaphora* (matters of religious indifference). This outline shall defend the proposition that Romans 14 deals with non-doctrinal issues. Paul said in I Cor. 8:8, "*food will not commend us to God: neither, if we eat not, are we the worse; nor, if we eat, are we the better.*" The idea of Romans 14 may be summed up in 14:15b, "*destroy not with thy meat him for whom Christ died.*" Let us not be so bent on exercising our liberties that we destroy a brother over a matter of indifference. Indeed this would be the height of selfishness.

I. Some Erring Quotes about Romans 14:

- A. Carl Ketcherside
- B. Leroy Garrett
- C. Ed Harrell
- D. Bob Owen
- E. Rubel Shelly
- F. Cecil Hook

II. Consider these facts regarding answering the question of what Romans 14 is dealing with:

- A. Do not criticize (Rom. 14:1), God has received (14:3), this man stands (14:4), the action is acceptable if done with good conscience (14:5) etc.
- B. Note that sin cannot be placed in the above positions (Isa. 59:1-2).

III. Examination of the Romans 14 Text:

- A. Receiving the weak in faith (Rom. 14:1-8)
- B. Do not destroy another whom Christ died for (Rom. 14:9-16)
- C. Do not press your liberties on others (Rom. 14:17-23)

Conclusion:

Romans chapter 14 deals with issues that will not bring one any closer to God if practiced or refrained from practicing. New converts who had previously refrained from eating certain meats and setting aside special days of worship, aside from Sunday, were not being asked to give up those practices. Christ is the master of all who profess their faith in Him through obedience (cf. Rom. 14:4). Some, however, attempt to play master though they are nothing more than a fellow servant. Said individuals may try to restrict fellow servants from activities that the Master openly allows. The Point of Romans 14 is that such judging on the part of a fellow servant is not right.

