

# Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. • Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: [oakswestchurchofchrist.com](http://oakswestchurchofchrist.com)

AUGUST 25, 2024

## Knowledge Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

From my files is a collection of supposed answers that children have given to their Bible class teachers through the years.

The first book of the Bible was Guinness.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Sampson slated {sic} the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

While this may be fictitious, I once gave a group of teens a Bible quiz. One of the True or False questions was "The epistles were the wives of the apostles." Two kids marked "True."

All of this reminds me of the Prophet Hosea's lament, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." It also underscores that knowledge is fundamental to our faith.

Last week we begin a series from 2 Peter 1:5-7 about those qualities we should add to our faith. The first was virtue. Added to virtue ought to be "knowledge."

The Greek word is gnosis, which Barclay says is "practical knowledge." He adds it "is that

knowledge which enables a man to decide rightly and to act honourably and efficiently in the day to day circumstances of life. So, then, to faith must be added courage and effectiveness; to courage and effectiveness must be added the practical wisdom to deal with life.

Wiersbe calls it "full knowledge" or "knowledge that is growing." He suggests that it involves "discernment."

C. D. Hamilton observed that "Ignorance of the Word of God would make it impossible to achieve moral excellence." One must understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17). And he must be able to discern between right and wrong (Heb. 54:12-14). Hamilton also reminds us that knowledge "does not come by accident or happenstance." It requires time, effort, and commitment to reading, studying and meditating on the Word.

We live in an age of access to an incredible amount of information, however not all of it is accurate. Religiously, what we read, believe, and practice must be measured by the standard of the Bible, God's Word. It is divinely inspired. And will teach us what is right. Show us what is wrong. Help us get right. Help us stay right. And equip us for

### Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

### Important Dates

**Our Gospel Meeting** with Ruben Amador is scheduled for October 13-16

**If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.**

every righteous work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

When we think of the fundamentals of faith, though not an exclusive list, here are a dozen things we need to know.

- Knowledge of how to study the Bible and rightly divide the Word.
- Knowledge of the character, nature, and personality of God.
- Knowledge that Jesus is the Lord of my life.
- Knowledge that the old man is crucified with Christ.
- Knowledge of His commandments for Christian living.
- Knowledge of the work and worship of the Lord's church.
- Knowledge of my personal responsibility in the church Family.
- Knowledge of the process of discipleship.
- Knowledge of effective evangelistic outreach.
- Knowledge of my relationships in the church, the home, the work place, the government, and the community.
- Knowledge of cardinal Bible doctrines such as grace, mercy, faith, and works.
- Knowledge of God's purpose for my life and my ultimate destiny.

Be advised that adding this knowledge is not just an academic exercise. As the word "knowledge" in this text implies, there must be an application in our lives. A discernment that allows us to make good choices. And a perceptiveness that spurns poor choices. Howard Hendricks once quipped, "God didn't give us the Bible to make us smarter sinners." Or as D. L. Moody wrote, "The Bible was not given {solely} for our information, but for our transformation."

In the words of the 13th century Persian poet, Saadi, "Whoever acquires knowledge and does not practice it resembles him who plows his land and leaves it unsown."

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is at home and on constant oxygen. He also has a wound on his leg and is seeing a wound doctor.

**Terry Behrns** is recovering at his sister's home

**Jay Parker's father** has cancer.

**Jimmy Stinnett** is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

**Jerry Richardson** is undergoing radiation treatments for lymphoma.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:18)*

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

### Evangelist

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### Elders

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### Deacons

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