

With Knowledge Comes Responsibility Revisited (12/10/94) VIII
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
February 28, 2004

On December 13, we began a look at our responsibilities with the theme "With Knowledge Comes Responsibility.

Today, we come to the end of this short list.

I gave a sermon on 12/10/94 – 9 years ago, almost to the day, entitled "With Knowledge Comes Responsibility". It was based on a sermon given by Dave Nix at the Feast of Tabernacles on 10/22/94. We alluded to it last week during our Bible Study about eternity.

We have a responsibility to make the most of whatever knowledge we have.

Everyone has his or her favorite scriptures. One of mine has become **Ezekiel 18**.

- The view had become that the individual had no responsibility for his own sin.
- God's message through Ezekiel is that every individual is responsible for their own salvation

God says everyone is responsible for their own actions, measured against what they know. There are people who have no knowledge.

- Some are wicked and some are not.
- Some have had a calling from God and some have not.
- Some have had some truth revealed to them and some have not.

It is not up to us to judge them. We cannot know God's will for other individuals, nor can we know if they have been studying or ignoring God's Word.

1Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

God knows what He has revealed to each one of us. He also knows if we tried to learn more or if we shirked our responsibility.

However, the Bible does tell us a few things we are expected to do.

1. Work
2. Study to Prove All things
3. Teach
4. Use Our Gifts
5. Be Ready
6. Live Peaceably

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7. Pray
8. Be an Example
9. Take Care of Our Bodies
10. Enjoy the Fruits of our Labor
 - a. **Solomon's wisdom**
 - i. **Ecclesiastes 3**
 1. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.
 2. 12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives,
 3. 13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor-it is the gift of God.
 - b. **Sing – mentioned over 100 times**
 - i. **Psalms 95.2**
 1. 1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
 2. 2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
 - c. **Be still**
 - i. Ne 8:11 So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."
 - ii. Ps 4:4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah
 - iii. Ps 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!
 - d. **Meditate**
 - i. Jos 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
 - ii. Ps 4:4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah
 - iii. Ps 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.
 - iv. Ps 77:6 I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search.
 - v. Ps 77:12 I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.
 - vi. Ps 119:15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.
 - vii. Ps 119:78 ¶ Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; But I will meditate on Your precepts.

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- viii. Ps 119:148 My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word.
- ix. Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.
- x. 1Ti 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

e. Ecclesiastes 1

- i. 1 ¶ The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- ii. 2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."
 - 1. "Been There; Done That" – Charles Groce 10.9.95
 - 2. "An Attitude Adjustment" – Ron Dart 10.25.03
 - 3. Solomon repeats 29 times
 - 4. He had tried most everything – and then wrote down what his wisdom had discovered
- iii. 3 What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?
- iv. 4 ¶ One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever.
- v. 5 The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to the place where it arose.
- vi. 6 The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit.
- vii. 7 All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again.
- viii. 8 All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.
- ix. 9 ¶ That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.
 - 1. There are only new ways to use old things
- x. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us.
 - 1. History repeats itself
- xi. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after.
- xii. 12 ¶ I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.
- xiii. 13 And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

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- xiv. 14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.
 - xv. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered.
 - xvi. 16 I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge."
 - xvii. 17 And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind.
 - xviii. 18 For in much wisdom is much grief, And he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.
- f. Ecclesiastes 2
- i. 1 ¶ I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also was vanity.
 - ii. 2 I said of laughter- "Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?"
 - iii. 3 I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.
 - iv. 4 I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards.
 - v. 5 I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.
 - vi. 6 I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.
 - vii. 7 I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me.
 - viii. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.
 - ix. 9 So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.
 - x. 10 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor.
 - xi. 11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.

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- xii. 12 ¶ Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; For what can the man do who succeeds the king? -Only what he has already done.
- xiii. 13 Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness.
- xiv. 14 The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived That the same event happens to them all.
- xv. 15 So I said in my heart, "As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, And why was I then more wise?" Then I said in my heart, "This also is vanity."
- xvi. 16 For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool!
- xvii. 17 ¶ Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.
- xviii. 18 Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.
- xix. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.
- xx. 20 Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.
- xxi. 21 For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.
- xxii. 22 For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun?
- xxiii. 23 For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.
- xxiv. 24 Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

In Charles' sermon, he brought back an old method of placing these verses into perspective:

1. Name 5 of the richest people in the world
2. Name 5 Nobel Prize winners
3. Name 5 Super Bowl MVPs

Now:

1. Name 5 of your favorite teachers
2. Name 5 people who influenced your life

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Do you enjoy life when you break any of the Ten Commandments?

To recap ten things we are expected to do:

1. Work
2. Study to Prove All things
3. Teach
4. Use Our Gifts
5. Be Ready
6. Live Peaceably
7. Pray
8. Be an Example
9. Take Care of Our Bodies
10. Enjoy the Fruits of our Labor

There are more things we are expected to do, to be sure. However, these 10 give us a good start.

Remember: With knowledge comes responsibility.