

“Watering Wisdom”

By Mrs. Sojourner

The Proverbs encourage us to pursue wisdom, and add to it knowledge and understanding.

So, how do we pursue this wisdom, knowledge and understanding? By reading the Bible? Reading the Bible is a start in this pursuit, because the Bible is God’s word and,

6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
Prov. 2:6 (NIV)

“So,” you may ask, “why is reading the Bible only the start of this pursuit?” Well, God looks on the heart. God sees what our purposes are, and he sees if we are just perusing the Word, or if we are diligently, or even desperately, searching him out and fearfully (reverently) pursuing him. Searching out wisdom is really searching out God.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. . .
Prov. 9:10 (NIV)

It is not a matter, necessarily, of how long we spend in the Word, it is the heart or



Foot-
notes:

manner in which we search out God and his wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that is important. If we water the seeds of God’s wisdom in the scriptures with hearts full of faith and gratitude, in God’s timing the wisdom in the scriptures will open right up to us. So, let’s diligently pursue God.

[I am] praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God Col. 1:9b-10 (NIV).

The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
717-C West High Street
Manchester, TN 37355-1694

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944

Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



Sojourning

Vol. 5 No. 38 Oct. 1, 2006

...with The Sojourner

“Be Made New”

(Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)



The Apostle Paul goes to great lengths to cover the details of the spiritual life of a believer in this whole letter to the Ephesians. He covers a matter, and then he covers it again, but from a slightly different angle or facet. He wants to be certain they understand each area covered as he leads them into the deeper parts of coming into a victorious life in Christ.

Futile Thinking

It is in Verse 17 of Chapter 4 of this letter to the Ephesians that Paul urges the Ephesians to live, “No longer as the Gentiles^[a] do, in the futility of their thinking.” Paul even goes so far as to say he, “Insists on it in the Lord.”

How many people today would be upset at hearing someone in ministry say they insist on anything? If Paul were with us today, as he is in this letter, many who claim to be Christians would see him as politically incorrect. It is in Verse 18 that he

goes even further to explain why there are those who are darkened in their understanding and separated from God by two things 1) ignorance and 2) hard hearts. He explains that as a natural consequence of these two ingredients people lose all sensitivity to a correct spiritual relationship with God and give themselves over to things which are ungodly. Yes it is true, a loving God does not desire that anyone perish in an eternal hell, but some people will give themselves over to it using the very free will the loving Creator gave them. Spiraling ever downward the ignorant and hard-hearted plunge into debauchery and destruction!

Come To Know Christ

Paul lets the Ephesians know they came to know Christ Jesus by being taught. They had open soft hearts yearning to cure their ignorance by learning the truths of Jesus. They then accepted the truth,

Notes:

[a]

Paul was meaning unbelievers.

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)

17So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. 20You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. 25Therefore each of you

Notes:

[a]
Psalms
4:4
In your
anger do
not sin;
when
you are
on your
beds,
search
your
hearts
and be
silent.
Selah

must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26^[a]In your anger do not sin^[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27and do not give the devil a foothold. 28He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. 29Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

“Be Made New”

(Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV)

and put out of their thoughts, and thus their behaviors, the old self and manner of thinking which had led their practice of “deceitful desires” which had corrupted them.

Notes:

Put On New Self

Curing their ignorance by being willing to be taught, they in fact had put on a new self as a result of understanding a new way of thinking.

Paul then lists some of the old ways of thinking and doing which must be dealt with and removed by basically saying the principle of ‘love you neighbor as yourself.’

Anger and Talk

The Apostle then speaks of anger, and in that regard what is permissible and what is not. When angry, don’t step over into sin, and don’t let anger last more than the day. This will keep the devil from getting back in you via a foothold. Paul lists then other behaviors to cease.

As Christ Did You

It is from Christ that those submitted will understand the need to forgive because they have received forgiveness!