

God's People Are to Grow in Knowledge
(Proverbs 22:17-21)

Introduction:

1. In today's lessons we are covering passages that relate to growing in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Lord willing, this evening we will examine passages that teach us to grow in grace.
3. This morning we are concentrating on the instruction that Solomon gave in Proverbs 22:17-21 -- "God's people are to grow in knowledge."
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES
 - A. This principle is taught in both the Old and New Testaments.
 1. In the Old Testament, Moses taught it in Deuteronomy 6:4-7.
 2. In the New Testament, Paul taught it in Colossians 3:16.
 - B. Appreciation for the value of the Scriptures should lead us to grow in our knowledge of them (Psalm 119:72).
 - C. We also need to point out that . . .
- II. FAILURE TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES LEADS TO DESTRUCTION
 - A. This principle is also taught in both the Old and New Testaments.
 1. In the Old Testament, Hosea taught it in Hosea 4:6.
 2. In the New Testament, Jesus taught it in John 12:48.
 - B. This information should impress us with the importance of growing in knowledge of the Scriptures.
 1. God wants us to learn His Word.
 2. Failure to so leads to destruction.
 - C. Let us turn our attention to the fact that . . .
- III. SPECIAL BLESSINGS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCRIPTURES
 - A. These blessings are revealed in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - B. Blessings revealed in the Old Testament include:
 1. "cleansing" (Psalm 119:9)
 2. "power to overcome temptation" (Psalm 119:11)
 3. "direction" (Psalm 119:105).
 - C. Blessings revealed in the New Testament include:
 1. "increasing your knowledge of Christ" (John 5:39; 2 Peter 3:18)
 2. "knowing the truth that will make you free" (John 8:31-32)
 3. "building you up" (Acts 20:32)
 4. "increasing your faith" (Romans 10:17)
 5. "equipping you completely to do God's will" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 6. "saving your soul" (James 1:21)
 7. "spiritual growth" (1 Peter 2:2).

Conclusion:

1. In closing, let us consider how the Scriptures are described in Hebrews 4:12.
2. Also, let us heed Solomon's appeal in Proverbs 23:12.