

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Learn

"The wisest man has something yet to learn." – George Santayana

"Still I am learning." – Michelangelo

"It is always in season for old men to learn." – Aeschylus

"I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught." – Winston Churchill, House of Commons speech, Nov. 4, 1952

One of the hardest things for us is admitting we have a lot to learn. Our pride is such that we don't like admitting that we don't know as much as we think we do.

Webster defines the word *learn* as, "to gain knowledge or understanding of or skill in by study, instruction, or experience." It in no way suggests that it is easy to accomplish, and as we know, quite often in life the learning process can be difficult. That is why the Psalmist could write, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes" (Psa. 119:71).

In the Old Testament, we read the interesting comment of the prophet Isaiah in which he said, "Learn to do good..." (Isa. 1:17). In the learning process one seeks out that which is good. To achieve such a goal, one would first have to know what is good, which he would derive from Scripture, and then diligently make an effort to do it. Learning in this case would suggest putting the knowledge into practice.

There of course are times where learning would embrace a desire or need for knowledge. The scribes and Pharisees prided themselves in being experts on the Law of Moses. But Jesus rebuked them, and told them, "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:13).

One of the humblest of men, the late Hugo McCord, after some 50 years of Gospel preaching, said there wasn't a day that he picked up his Bible that he learned something new. Brother McCord was an accomplished scholar in Hebrew and Greek. He was knowledgeable by human standards. And yet he readily admitted that he had a lot to learn.

Sometimes the learning process comes through difficult experiences. Certainly Jesus could attest to that. He learned obedience by the things which he suffered (Heb. 5:8-9). And what of the apostle Paul who learned contentment through the experiences of life (Phil. 4:11)?

Yes, all of us have much to learn. The key in this is humility. When we can lower ourselves enough to admit we have a lot to learn, then we will be better followers of Jesus.