

Messenger Of Truth

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

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Knowledge

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles by it." – Thomas Fuller

"We don't know one millionth of one per cent about anything." – Thomas A. Edison

"We're drowning in information and starving for knowledge." – Rutherford D. Rogers

"Knowledge has to be improved, challenged, and increased constantly, or it vanishes." – Peter Drucker

Knowledge is the accumulation of facts, whereas wisdom is the application of that knowledge. Even so, many are woefully ignorant of a great many things. Well, perhaps not as it pertains to matters of the world, but in spiritual matters the result is often pitiful.

In a poll of high school seniors, many believe that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. Even in a general poll among Americans, One in every ten believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. And only one in three possess the knowledge that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). (Source: Randall Balmer, *The Washington Monthly*, 2007, "Joan of Arc, Wife of Noah?")

While conducting Bible surveys, it was surprising when trying to determine what translation of the Bible people were using, to hear people say they used, "The Holy Bible." And they could point to those exact words since it was written on their copies of the Bible.

It is said that there was a time in the 40's and 50's of the 20th century, that members of the church of Christ possessed such biblical knowledge, that if one wanted to know where to find a verse in the Bible, they could just call them. And quite possibly not only would they tell you where it was found, they would quote it to you.

Members of the church today struggle as they devote so very little time to opening their Bibles. Watching on average some 4-6 hours of television a day, along with various sporting events and activities, it is a wonder they know much of anything about Scripture.

A group of teens were embarrassed listening to a group of young children being able to recite the books of the Bible and the names of the apostles. What we are finding is that some of our teens are having trouble just knowing what books are in the Old or New Testaments.

The adults are not fairing much better. On Jay Leno, with *The Tonight Show*, there was a segment where adults were asked to name one of the disciples. The blank look on faces spoke volumes. One wonders how much better members could answer such a question.

The church needs to be more challenging with its lessons and guides for study. Remember the danger, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). (And the worst part of that passage is that it was an indictment against the priests.)

