

# Excellence #3

## Excellence in Knowledge

### Recap

#### Mindset of Excellence –

When you hear the term Excellence, what goes through your mind? Waynes World? Bond?

**The Def:** To exceed, to grow or to magnify

#### 1 Col 3:23-24

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

#### 2 Cor 4:7

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

- 1). Excellence will take us to the edge
- 2). Excellence will encourage us do what we are meant to do
- 3). Excellence will bring the Best together.

#### Introduction:

In this next study, we are going to deal with Excellence in Knowledge. From that term it is very easy to conclude that we need to get wiser, we need more knowledge. To acquire and study for more insight is a sign of Excellence, being teachable is very is a mark of excellence. *Study to show yourself approved.*

But we need to be careful that we don't fall into 2 categories in our endeavor...

- 1). 2 Tim 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 2). Acts 26:24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

When we acquire knowledge for application to our lives it becomes a life giver....

#### Ecc 7:11-12

11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun.

12 For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.

#### Point One: Real Boasting

##### Jer 9:23-24

23 Thus says the LORD:

"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might,  
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

24 But let him who glories glory in this, **That he understands and knows Me,**

That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

Many boast in study of the things of God, or the ways of God, some are very set on the doctrines of different persuasions yet, they lost their desire for the truth, and Jesus is the truth.

*Paul had to open up with boasting to make a point...*

##### Phil 3:4-6

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

### **Phil 3:7-11**

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss **for the excellence of the knowledge** of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that **I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

## **Point Two: Excellence in Knowledge**

### **EXCEL, EXCELLENCY, EXCELLENT**

3. huperecho NT:5184, lit., **"to have over"** (huper, "over," **echo**, "to have"), is translated "excellency" in Phil 3:8, **"the surpassingness"** (Moule); the phrase could be translated "the surpassing thing, which consists in the knowledge of Christ Jesus,"

To grow, to abound in our knowledge of Christ, to ECHO, when others hear the sound, we allow it to echo or bounce from us, because we are continually seeking.

**The Desire of Paul** was that of a growing knowledge of Christ, His person, Who He is as God, His Desire to fellowship with Him. "That I may Know Him"

**King David** was a man after God's own heart, and he wrote the beautiful Psalm 42 "As a deer pants for the Water, so I thirst for you O God. – Macho Warrior, yet in Love with God.

### **When does it end?**

#### **Job 11:7-8**

7 "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?

8 They are higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know?"

We can feel that we know it all, but when we go after Knowing God, it is an Eternal Endeavor.

### **Isa 55:9**

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

## **Conclusion: Loving God is Excellence**

### **1 Cor 2:9-13**

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 But God has revealed them to us **through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

***By our pursue of God we are going to accomplish several things....***

1). **The Revelation** of things that are freely given to us

2). **Direction** – We can look for a door, but we need to look for THE DOOR

as we seek him, His desire and his heart is revealed to us, then we link up with that desire.

Note: If you hang around someone enough, you will see if they are about themselves or they are about others.

The Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ – making a commitment to know him more intimately then yesterday.

The Theme of “Promise Keepers” Come Near to Me”

Let us not just look through the windows, let us not just stop at the threshold of the door, but let us knock and sup with Him.

“The Lord is Good and Compassionate – Personal Revelation