

GOAL OF INSTRUCTION

1Ti.1:1-5

Easy access to higher learning has produced 'professional students.'

Proliferation of books makes knowledge readily available.

One can be informed on most any subject.

(Not possible before printing—most books were in libraries of the rich.)

Bibles, and study aids, can make people "Bible-literate."

But is Bible knowledge an end in itself?

KNOWLEDGE, BY ITSELF IS USELESS

Knowledge is only a 'tool.'

Like a good set of wrenches—useless unless put to use.

Holding more classes may not produce more godliness.

"Professional Bible students" can be a bane in the church.

Ecc.12:11-14 *excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.*

Knowledge may produce false sense of spirituality.

Pride in knowing may cause one to leave off doing.

Have you known of well-versed members turning away from the Lord?

Preachers, elders, "strong" members?

Knowledge provides us with information on how to live and please God. 1Th.4:1

Bible knowledge must not be an end in itself!

KNOWLEDGEABLE ADMONISHED

Peter admonishes those who already know: "make certain their calling." 2Pe.1:10-12

1Jo.2:4 **Those who know are to "keep His commandments."**

Written not to *inform*—but to encourage *conform*. 1Jo.2:21

Examine actions in light of Scriptures (not more study!). 2Ti.2:15

KNOWLEDGE, WHEN PUT TO USE

Helps us reach our destination. Phi.3:14

Produces pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith. (Text)

Produces perseverance and encouragement. Rom.15:4

Causes us to follow good examples, avoid bad examples. 1Co.10:11, Phi.3:17

When one does this he is on 'path of life.' Pro.10:17

"He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who ignores reproof goes astray."

NOT TO SAY KNOWLEDGE IS UNIMPORTANT

Pro.4:13 *Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.*

Pro.5:23 *He will die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.*

Pro.9:9 *Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning.*

It must be put into action. 2Th.3:14, 1Co.11:17

As faith without works is dead, so knowledge without action is vain religion.

"... Show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." Jam.2:18

Phi.2:12 *"work out your own salvation..."*