

When You Have the Necessary Knowledge
International Bible Lesson
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Sunday, July 13, 2014
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him” (1 Corinthians 8:2-3—KJV).

“Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him” (1 Corinthians 8:2-3—NRSV).

Which is more important: to know something or know God? Which is more important: to know something or be known by God? Which is more important: to know something or love God and others? Which is more important: to know something or “have the necessary knowledge”? The lack of “necessary knowledge” can influence someone to manifest a spirit of superiority, especially among the less informed, and lead them into an unloving disregard for the needs and rights of others. We can see the lack of “necessary knowledge” in people from all walks of life and even among some in the church (as Paul discussed in his first letter to the Corinthians).

“Necessary knowledge” comes from God and God knowing

us. Unfortunately, in spite of their calling Jesus Christ “Lord, Lord,” some who claim to be Christians may be unknown by Him (see Matthew 7:21-23). “Necessary knowledge” comes from being known by God and will manifest itself by Christians loving God and others. The Apostle John wrote: “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Being known by God and being filled with God’s love is more important than knowing many things. People who claim to know God but disregard the needs of others do not have the love of God in their heart or the “necessary knowledge.” Christians with the “necessary knowledge” know and love God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; they study the Bible for the “necessary knowledge” to do the will of God when they help meet the real needs of others as the Holy Spirit teaches, empowers, and leads them. – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

— E-mail: lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org : *You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.* More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org. Read the verse by verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* at: InternationalBibleLessons.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.

Thinking Further

1. What are some of the characteristics of those who are puffed up by knowledge?

2. How might someone use their knowledge in love to build up others?

3. Why would you say that it is more important to be known by God than to know a lot of facts about God?

4. What beings exist in the spiritual realm that the Bible reveals to us?

5. How serious can it be if we use our freedom and sin against other Christians?

— © Copyright 2014 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.