

## Doctrine of Knowledge

1. The Hebrew word for knowledge is  $\text{יָדָע}$  yada` (yaw-dah'); and means "to know" (properly, to ascertain by seeing). The word is used in a great variety of senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially (including observation, care, recognition; and causatively, instruction, designation, punishment, etc.).
2. The presence of the knowledge of good and evil was part of the original creation.
  - *Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*
3. God forbid man to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, lest they die.
  - *Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

### ***Special Note.***

Why did God command man not to eat of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? *First*, Because there was an express positive revelation of the will of God concerning this tree, so that by it he might know moral good and evil. What is good? It is good not to eat of this tree. What is evil? It is evil to eat of this tree.

The distinction between all other moral good and evil was written in the heart of man by nature; but this, which resulted from a positive law, was written upon this tree.

*Secondly*, Because, in the event, it proved to give Adam an experimental knowledge of good by the loss of it and of evil by the sense of it.

As the covenant of grace has in it, not only *Believe and be saved*, but also, *Believe not and be damned* (Mark 16:16), so the covenant of innocency had in it, not only *"Do this and live,"* which was sealed and confirmed by the tree of life, but, *"Fail and die,"* which Adam was assured of by this other tree: *"Touch it at your peril;"* so that, in these two trees, God set before him *good and evil, the blessing and the curse*, Deuteronomy 30:19. These two trees were as two sacraments" (Matthew Henry).

4. Man has become like God in that he now knows good and evil.
  - *Genesis 3:22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

5. There is power in knowledge.

- *Proverbs 3:20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.*
- *Proverbs 24:5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.*

6. There is wisdom in the desire for knowledge. Solomon prayed for knowledge as did the psalmist.

- *1 Kings 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*
- *Psalms 119:66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.*

7. To love instruction is to love knowledge. It is important to be teachable.

- *Proverbs 12:1 Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.*

8. Knowledge must be sought. A concerted effort must be made to seek knowledge.

- *Proverbs 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.*

9. A person is wise who seeks after knowledge and shall obtain it.

- *Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.*

10. It is possible to reject knowledge.

- *Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

11. Those who reject knowledge are subject for destruction.

- *Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

12. Foolish people hate knowledge preferring emotional rhetoric and delighting in abandoned passions to rational facts.

- *Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?*

13. People who hate knowledge choose not to fear the Lord.

- *Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:*

14. There is a spiritual gift called the “word of knowledge”.

- *1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.*

15. Knowledge is pleasant in the soul.

- *Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

16. With the passing of time knowledge shall increase.

- *Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

17. The prophet Isaiah predicted that one day the earth shall be covered with the knowledge of the Lord.

- *Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

18. The fear (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

- *Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

19. Knowledge is to be preferred to gold.

- *Proverbs 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.*

20. Ministers of the gospel should be the keepers of knowledge.

- *Malachi 2:7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.*

21. The Lord will give knowledge of salvation to His people.

- *Luke 1:77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,*

22. There is a key of knowledge which can be taken away.

- *Luke 11:52 Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.*

***Special Note.***

11:52. Key of knowledge. The Pharisees “are reprov'd for opposing the gospel of Christ, and doing all they could to obstruct the progress and success of it, v. 52.

They had not, according to the duty of their place, faithfully expounded to the people those scriptures of the Old Testament which pointed at the Messiah, which if they had been led into the right understanding of by the lawyers, they would readily have embraced him and his doctrine: but, instead of that, they had perverted those texts, and had cast a mist before the eyes of the people, by their corrupt glosses upon them, and this is called *taking away the key of knowledge*; instead of *using* that key for the people, and helping them to use it aright, they *hid it* from them; this is called, in Matthew, *shutting up the kingdom of heaven against men*, [Matthew 23:13](#).

Note, those who take away the key of knowledge shut up the *kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew Henry).

23. Presently, knowledge is known only in part.

- *1 Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

24. The knowledge of God is more important than the giving of an offering.

- *Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*

25. The knowledge of Christ makes all else pale in comparison.

- *Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*