

A Fool Despises Instruction

Learning only occurs when there has been a transfer of knowledge from the teacher to the individual being taught. This transfer of knowledge is sometimes stifled by traits of the teacher. His teaching can be impaired by speaking in a monotone, teaching too long at a time, boring presentation, or discussing topics of no relevance.

However, sometimes the process of learning is impaired by the hearer. Jesus, the perfect Teacher, was unable to teach some people. He warned that men should be careful how they hear. He said, LUK 8:8 "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!". Each of the letters to the seven churches of Asia concludes with the saying, (REV 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. "In order to benefit from the revelation which God has given to man, an individual must have the proper attitude to learn.

An individual must have a burning desire to know God's will. The wise man said, "Buy the truth, and do not sell {it, also} wisdom and instruction and understanding." (PRO 23:23). This proverb recognizes the preciousness of truth, the willingness to sacrifice in order to obtain it, and the obligation to cling to it at all cost. Jesus taught the same lesson in comparing the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field and to a goodly pearl for which he had been searching sold all that they had in order to obtain them. The Bereans displayed this attitude toward learning God's will when they "...in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily {to find out} whether these things were so." (ACT 17:11).

A wise man is marked by his attitude toward learning the will of God. He will listen to instruction.

"Give {instruction} to a wise {man}, and he will be still wiser; teach a just {man}, and he will increase in learning. (PRO 9:9)

" The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall. (PRO 10:8)

The instruction which he hears, he will keep (i.e. obey, make application to his life- "He who keeps instruction {is in} the way of life, but he who refuses reproof goes astray." (PRO 10:17). Having this attitude toward learning makes him increase in wisdom

" Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof {is} stupid. (PRO 12:1); "The ear that hears the reproof of life will abide among the wise." (PRO 15:31); "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days." (PRO 19:20). "He will love the man who reproves him for his sin- Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you." (PRO 9:8). This disposition perceives that anytime a man has the

opportunity to rid himself of some incorrect belief or practice in exchange for a correct belief or practice, he is wise to exchange the bad for the good.

By contrast, the fool hates reproof.

Proverbs 12:1 "...but he who hates reproof {is} stupid."; Proverbs 13:1 "...but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."; Proverbs 13:18 "Poverty and shame {will come} to him who disdains correction, but he who regards reproof will be honored."

Frequently, he will hate the one who brings it. Paul asked the Galatians if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth-Galatians 4:16 "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" Proverbs 15:12 "A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, nor will he go to the wise."

Brethren may we all grow in the understanding of our Holy Father and His precious Son, Our Lord and Saviour.