Put On Knowledge
Message 3 of 8: Dress Code of A Christian sermon series
II Peter 1:3-11 NIV

Turn in your Bibles to II Peter chapter 1.

Today we are continuing our “Dress Code of A Christian” sermon series.

Thus far in this series we have been challenged to PUT ON FAITH, “For without FAITH it is IMPOSSIBLE to please GOD.”

And we have been challenged to PUT ON GOODNESS. …….the kind of GOODNESS that can only come from a personal relationship with GOD, who alone is good.

In today’s message, Peter challenges us to add another garment to our spiritual wardrobe…….and that is PUT ON KNOWLEDGE.

Read: II Peter 1: 3-11

Before we get into today’s message, let’s ask God’s blessings on our study of His word this morning.
Introduction to Today’s Message

There is a widespread belief that INTELLIGENCE and CHRISTIANITY don’t mix.

Many people believe if you are INTELLIGENT you can’t possibly believe in GOD or the BIBLE……..And if you do believe in GOD and the BIBLE you can’t possibly be very intelligent.

This is the godless philosophy that is being branded into the minds of young college and university students all across America. In fact, studies show that 95% of Christian young people who go off to a secular University or College, abandon their Christian beliefs by the time they reach the end of their first year in college. Ninety five percent!!! That’s disturbing isn’t it?

I mean think about it……..

When was the last time you saw a TV show or movie that depicted a Christian in a positive light? Christians are commonly portrayed as “Bible quotin, gun-totin’ backward, ignorant people who are totally out of touch with reality.”

And every time someone bombs and abortion clinic or commits a hate crime against a homosexual or someone of a particular race in the Name of God, the NEWS MEDIA is quick to latch on to the story as “proof-positive” Christians are deranged, delusional people who pose a serious danger to society.

Nowhere in the Bible will you find an “ignorance is next to godliness” philosophy. In fact the Bible teaches us the exact opposite! God wants His people to be a KNOWLEDGEABLE people!
This is why Peter tells us in verse 5 “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your FAITH goodness; and to goodness, KNOWLEDGE....”

In fact the word knowledge is mentioned FOUR times in this first chapter of II Peter.

vs. 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the KNOWLEDGE of God and of Jesus our Lord.

vs. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our KNOWLEDGE of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

vs. 5 Make every effort to add to your FAITH goodness and to goodness KNOWLEDGE.....

vs. 8 “they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your KNOWLEDGE of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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As we think about PUTTING ON KNOWLEDGE this morning, let’s consider these two simple thoughts:

First, we will look at Some Ways I Need To Grow in Knowledge

Secondly we will look at Some Wonderful Benefits of Growing in Knowledge
First, let’s look at……

I. Some Ways I Need to Grow in Knowledge

1. What does Peter mean when he says, “add to your faith goodness and to goodness KNOWLEDGE?”

2. Knowledge is a very broad subject. One can be very knowledgeable about a lot of things.

   You can be very knowledgeable about history or science.
   You can be very knowledgeable about math or English.
   You can be very knowledgeable about fishing and hunting.

3. When Peter talks about KNOWLEDGE, he isn’t talking about earthly knowledge, but rather spiritual knowledge.

   The world is full of people who have all kinds of earthly knowledge and yet many of those same people are totally ignorant of the most important things of all.

4. Let’s consider three areas where we as Christians need to be constantly growing in our knowledge.

   (A) First, I need to grow in my knowledge of GOD.

      Jesus prayed in John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may KNOW YOU, the only true GOD and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.”

      What were we made for? Why were we created? Why are we here? To know GOD!

      Who is the most important one we will ever meet in this life? GOD!
What is it that brings us more joy, more peace, more happiness and more contentment than anything else? To know GOD!

The best thing that can ever happen to us in this life is NOT to win the lottery or to receive a huge inheritance or to one day own a luxurious mansion. The best thing that can ever happen to us in this life is to KNOW GOD!

*For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet forfeits his own soul. For what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*

In John 17:3 that I read a moment ago, Jesus tells us to know GOD is to know the source of eternal life.

You and I need to be constantly growing in our KNOWLEDGE of GOD.

.....I must constantly seek to know GOD’S will for my life.

......I must seek to know GOD’S purpose for my life.

......I must seek to know GOD’S plan for my life.

........I must seek to know more about GOD’S nature, His love, His mercy, His grace, His forgiveness, His righteousness, His Holiness,

My friend, if you live to be 100, you will never know everything there is to know about GOD.

*Keep learning!*
I need to grow in my **KNOWLEDGE of JESUS CHRIST**.

The apostle Paul writes in *Philippians 3*....

> *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of KNOWING Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.* (verses 7,8)

> *I want to KNOW Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.* (verse 10)

Paul goes on to say in verse 12.....*Not that I have already attained this……I press on!*

What Paul is saying is there is still so much more about CHRIST I want to KNOW!

You and I know a lot about CHRIST. We know where He was born. We know where He grew up! We know He was miraculously conceived in his mother’s womb by the Holy Spirit. We know His earthly mother was Mary and His earthly father was Joseph.

But do we truly KNOW Jesus Christ? Do we truly know how much He loves us? Do we truly know how much He cares for us? Do we truly know Him as our best friend? Do we truly walk with Him and talk with Him each day?

Do we truly know what its like to be despised and rejected like JESUS? Do we know what it feels like to be abandoned by everyone close to us? Do we truly know what it feels like to have nails driven into our hands and feet and to be sentenced to die for something we didn’t do?

Do we truly KNOW CHRIST? Our prayer each and I every day should be, “Dear Lord, help me to KNOW you better each day. Through my trials, my burdens, my loneliness, my pain, my suffering, and my temptations, may I come to KNOW YOU better.
I need to grow in my KNOWLEDGE of GOD.
I need to grow in my KNOWLEDGE of CHRIST.

(C) I need to grow in my KNOWLEDGE of God‘s WORD.

Jesus says in John 8:31,32  "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will KNOW the TRUTH, and the TRUTH will set you free.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

When it says the word of God is living and active that means God’s word never grows stale or old-fashioned. It means every time you open up God’s word you are likely to discover something knew, something you never knew or understood before. Its living and active!

That’s why we must continue to STUDY God’s word!

In God’s word we find the PRINCIPLES that give us wisdom...........the PRECEPTS that give us stability ........and the PROMISES that give us hope.

I need to grow in my knowledge of GOD, my knowledge of CHRIST and my knowledge of God’s Word.
Secondly, let’s consider……

II. Some Wonderful Benefits of Growing in Knowledge

1. I think it is only human nature to want to know how something is going to benefit us.

What are some of the wonderful benefits of Growing in Knowledge?

(A) Growing in Knowledge PLEASERS God.

Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, GROWING in the KNOWLEDGE of GOD.

John 14:21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him.

When God sees me putting forth a diligent effort to learn and grow in my spiritual life, He is well pleased!

(B) Growing in Knowledge also PROMOTES my spiritual maturity.

Listen to this stern warning the Hebrew writer gave his readers in HEBREWS 5:11-14……..

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. (Now listen carefully !!!) But solid food is for the MATURE, who by CONSTANT USE have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
Perhaps one of the most troubled churches in the New Testament was the Church at Corinth. This Church was plagued with worldliness and spiritual immaturity. There was division and disunity in the Church. And at the very root of it was the fact they had not GROWN in KNOWLEDGE. They were still feeding on the milk of the word rather than the meat.

It only stands to reason, the more time, energy and effort you and I put into GROWING in our KNOWLEDGE of GOD, CHRIST and the WORD, the less time we will have to fuss and fight with one another.

(C) Growing in KNOWLEDGE also PRESERVES me during life’s storms.

Remember Jesus’ parable of the WISE and FOOLISH builders?

_Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock._

Some people completely fall apart when storms of life come their way. During this current economic crisis, the incidents of suicide has sharply risen. As people have watched their life savings and their financial investments crumble all around them, they lost all hope.

Christians, do you know why you and I are going to survive this storm? Its not because we’ve got a bunch of money socked away. It is because WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE that GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US no matter how tough the storm gets.
(C) Growing in KNOWLEDGE also PROTECTS me from being led astray by false teachers.

(Turn over to the last chapter of II Peter)

*Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.*
*(now listen carefully!) But GROW in the grace and KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! AMEN!*

The apostle Paul warned us in II Timothy 4 that there would come a time when many people would give up on SOUND DOCTRINE and be led astray by false teachers.

I believe we are now living in those times. This is why it is so critically important that you and I continue to GROW in KNOWLEDGE, because our KNOWLEDGE of GOD, CHRIST and the WORD is the best protection we’ve got against being led astray by false teachers.

**CONCLUSION**

**ILLUSTRATION:** Years ago I met an elderly man. He was a lawyer by profession and an agnostic by admission.

He proudly boasted of his college degrees and loved to impress people with his vast knowledge on a wide variety of subjects.

-He knew more about the Civil War and American history than anyone I've ever known.

-He could talk fluently about politics and the stock market and financial investing.

-He could even quote scripture and debate religion with the best of them.
Several years ago I was asked to conduct the funeral service for this lawyer. It was one of the saddest funerals I’ve ever done.

That man, who was so knowledgeable of the things of this world, left this life completely ignorant of the most important things of all.

He left this world never KNOWING GOD.

He left this world never KNOWING JESUS CHRIST as his Lord and Savior.

Brothers and sisters, if you believe you have already learned everything you can possibly learn about God, about Christ and about the Bible, guess again!

There will never come a time in this lifetime when you and I KNOW IT ALL! Don’t ever allow yourself to become UNTEACHABLE!

Keep reading!
Keep studying!
Keep learning!

Put On Knowledge!