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**LEARNING . . . “FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS”**

**Selected Texts**

A. W. Tozer said, “We must face the fact that many today are notoriously careless in their living. This attitude finds its way into the church. We have liberty, we have money, we live in comparative luxury. As a result, discipline practically has disappeared. What would a violin solo sound like if the strings on the musician’s instrument were all hanging loose?” The Christian who is undisciplined will have very limited effectiveness as a believer, never develop into spiritual maturity, and experience minimal fulfillment as a Christian. The Scriptures make plain that the way to become like Jesus and find meaning in doing so is to follow Him in the disciplines of discipleship. First Timothy 4:7 puts it directly: “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”One of the meanings of the word “disciple” is “a learner.” One of the Spiritual Disciplines is the Discipline of learning.

# LEARNING IS A DESIRE THAT CHARACTERIZES THE WISE PERSON

See Prov. 9:9—the wise and righteous man is teachable and increases his learning.

 See Prov. 10:14—“Wise men store up knowledge.”

 See Prov. 18:15—the mind of the prudent and ear of the wise acquires knowledge.

 See Prov. 23:12—“Apply your heart to discipline, and your ears to words of knowledge.”

# LEARNING IS ONE WAY WE FULFILL THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

 Part of the Greatest Commandment is: “And you shall love the Lord your God . . . with all your mind” (Mk. 12:29-30).

 One of the ways we’re to show love and obedience to the Lord is by Godly learning.

# LEARNING IS ESSENTIAL FOR INCREASED GODLINESS

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your **mind**” (Rom. 12:2).

 We must *learn* to be like Jesus.

# LEARNING IS MOSTLY BY DISCIPLINE, NOT BY ACCIDENT

 “The abundant in years may not be wise” (Job 32:9). Age and experience alone don’t increase one’s spiritual maturity. Learning the Word and ways of God requires discipline.

 Those not trying to learn will only get spiritual and Biblical knowledge by accident.

# LEARNING IS DONE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS

 Consider some of these learning methods which you may have overlooked: reading, listening to recorded books, accessing Christian sites on the Internet, listening to cassette tapes or CDs, watching video tapes, listening to teaching on the Internet or Christian radio, planning for meaningful dialogue with and asking prepared questions of spiritually mature Christians (even by mail or phone), using study guides, etc.

***MORE APPLICATION***

1. ***Will you discipline yourself to become an intentional learner?***
2. ***Where will you start?***
3. ***When will you start?***

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