

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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IT'S TIME TO GET MORE

John Edwards

I saw something recently that said, “It’s time to get more.” I’m making spiritual application in this writing. The Bible talks about “*a time to get*” (Eccl. 3:6). It’s time to get more:

KNOWLEDGE. “*The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge*” (Prov. 18:15). “*Teach me good judgment and knowledge...*” (Ps. 119:66) should be our desire. The book of Proverbs is designed to give “*...to the young man knowledge...*” (Prov. 1:4). “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...*” (Prov. 1:7). Knowledge is to be received rather than choice gold (Prov. 8:10)! “*There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel*” (Prov. 20:15). Wise men lay up knowledge (Prov. 10:14). It is written, “*Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge...*” (Prov. 12:1). Is that you? “*The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge...*” (Prov. 15:14). God’s people went into captivity because they had no knowledge (Is. 5:13)! Hosea 4 reports, “*... there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land*” (v. 1) and “*My people are*

destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (v. 6). These all suggest it’s time to get more knowledge: “*...filled with all knowledge...*” (Rom. 15:14), “*...abound in...knowledge...*” (2 Cor. 8:7), “*...increasing in the knowledge of God*” (Col. 1:10), “*...add...knowledge*” (2 Pet. 1:5), and “*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ....*” (2 Pet. 3:18).

UNDERSTANDING. “*Happy is the man...that getteth understanding*” (Prov. 3:13). “*...get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth*” (Prov. 4:5, 7). “*...to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!*” (Prov. 16:16). Understanding is connected with doing what the Lord commands. “*...a good understanding have all they that do his commandments...*” (Ps. 111:10). “*Through thy precepts I get understanding...*” (Ps. 119:104). The downfall of Israel of old is they didn’t get more understanding! “*Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding: which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not*” (Jer. 5:21). One reason folks are “*...filled with all unrighteousness...*” is due to being “*Without understanding*” (Rom. 1:31). In understanding we are to be men (1 Cor. 14:20). Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians was, “*The eyes of your understanding being*

enlightened...” (Eph. 1:18). “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:17). This affirms the will of the Lord can be understood. Paul wrote Timothy, “*Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.*”

WISDOM. The book of Proverbs makes its appeal to get more wisdom: “*Get wisdom... Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom*” (Prov. 4:5, 7). “*How much better is it to get wisdom than gold!*” (Prov. 16:16). “*He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul...*” (Prov. 19:8). To get more wisdom, we must hearken to the statutes and judgments of the Lord! “*Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom...*” (Dt. 4:1-6). When given a ‘blank check’ by God, “*Ask what I shall give thee*”, Solomon asked for wisdom in 1 Kings 3. Job 28:28 says, “*Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom...*” Since life is so brief, “*...apply our hearts unto wisdom*” (Ps. 90:12). The Wisdom literature teaches: “*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom...*” (Prov. 3:13). “*For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it*” (Prov. 8:11). “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...*” (Prov. 9:10). “*... wisdom giveth life to them that have it*” (Eccl. 7:12). “*Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more*

than ten mighty men which are in the city" (Eccl. 7:19). "...a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine..." (Eccl. 8:1). "Wisdom is better than strength...Wisdom is better than weapons of war..." (Eccl. 9:16, 18). Paul prayed for the Colossians, "...that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col. 1:9). In Christ "...are hid all the treasures of wisdom..." (Col. 2:3). The Colossians were instructed, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." (Col. 3:16). "Walk in wisdom..." (Col. 4:5). James taught, "If you any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..." (Jas. 1:5).

Time is of essence in getting more!

HELD FOR RANSOM

Joe R. Price

Another high-profile ransomware attack happened this week. This time it was against JBS, the world's largest meat supplier. "Ransomware is a type of malicious software, or

malware, that prevents you from accessing your computer files, systems, or networks and demands you pay a ransom for their return" (Scams and Safety, fbi.gov). The Colonial Pipeline recently paid \$4.4 million in ransom to cyber-criminals operating out of Russia.

The gospel explains that sin (much like ransomware) holds souls in bondage. Sin corrupts our "systems" (body, soul, and spirit), causing spiritual death with no expectation of escape. We have all sinned, and its wages is death (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Paul captured the despair of being held captive by sin and its death, "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death" (Rom. 7:24)?

However, a redemption price was paid that can free us from sin's clutches. Jesus Christ "gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim. 2:6). The offering of Christ for the sins of the world is the price of redemption. The "precious blood of Christ" is the ransom that redeems us from sin's corruption and death (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

The ransom price (the blood of Jesus) must be applied to the sinner to be freed from sin. How? The Romans show us: "...you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18). The ransom was applied when they were baptized into the death of Jesus (Rom. 6:3).

The price paid for our redemption compels us to praise and serve Christ. He "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14; Rev. 5:9-10). Let us give ourselves to Him.

The Spirit's Sword (XXIII:21)
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EACH ONE INVITE ONE!

EACH ONE TEACH ONE!

EACH ONE WIN ONE!

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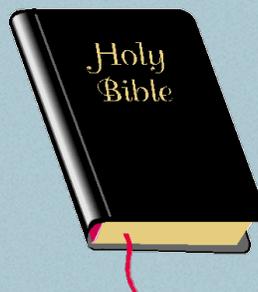
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