

knowledge





# **Moral Excellence + Knowledge**

- Our theme scripture (2 Peter 1:5ff) notes the way each Christian virtue is to be “added to” the others. This also means that we need all of the Christian virtues in order grow into a mature, productive saint.
- So what is the relationship between moral excellence and knowledge? How does one grow into the other? A second scripture that connects the two is Colossians 1:9-10. “Walking in a worthy manner” fosters an environment where divine knowledge can grow. Increasing knowledge further informs us of God’s will.



**Knowledge flourishes with moral commitment**

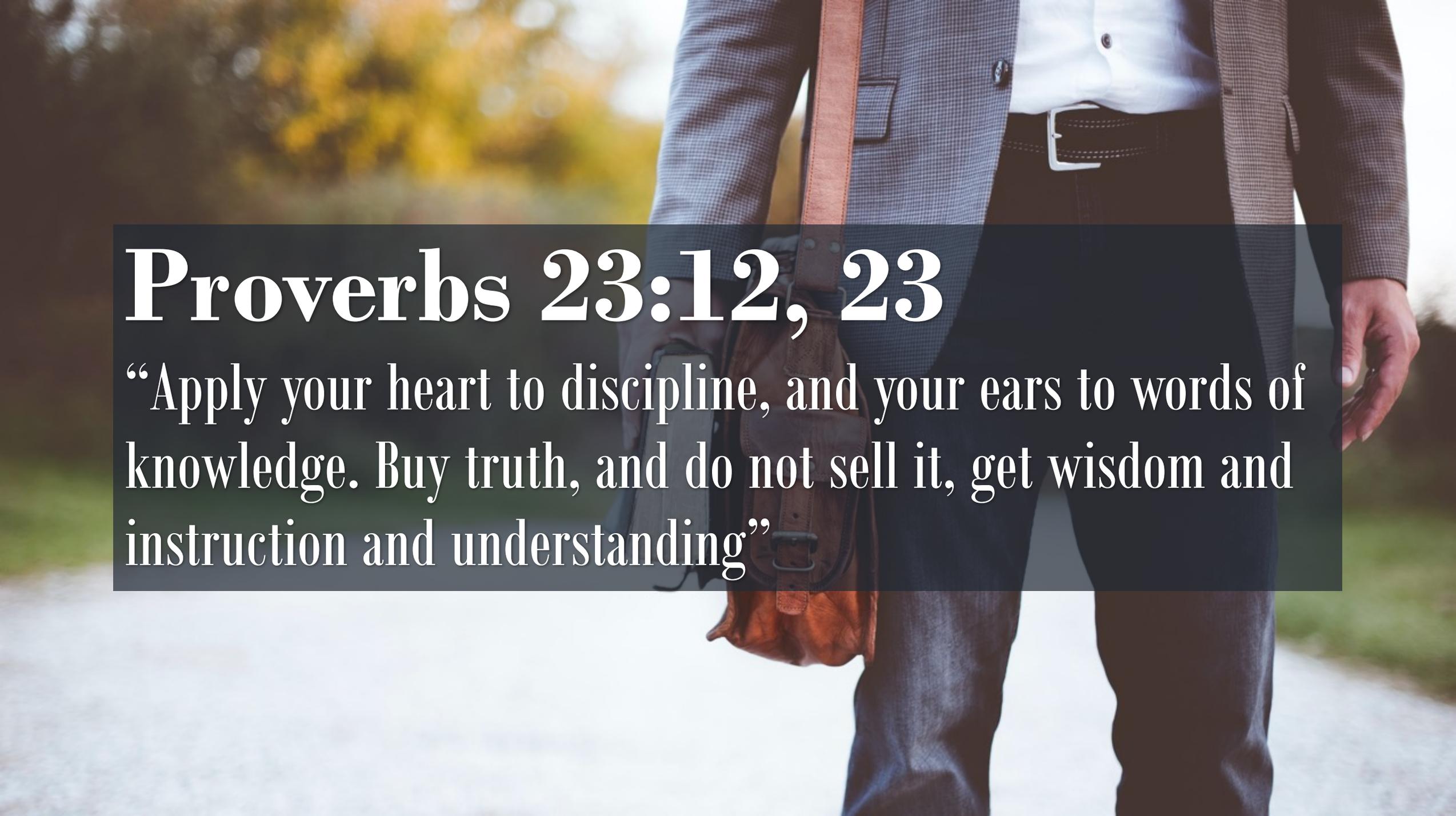
So what kind of  
knowledge are we  
talking about?



# Hosea 4:6

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget you.”



A person wearing a grey suit jacket, a white shirt, and dark trousers is walking outdoors. They are carrying a brown leather messenger bag over their shoulder. The background is a blurred natural setting with green grass and trees. A dark grey semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

# Proverbs 23:12, 23

“Apply your heart to discipline, and your ears to words of knowledge. Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding”



# Fully Equipped

- Many have forgotten a very simple, wonderful, encouraging truth: God's word has the power to equip us for every defense (1 Peter 3:15), for the destruction of even the mightiest fortresses of human wisdom (2 Corinthians 10:4-5), and to make us adequately prepared for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- It was always the apostle's goal to present "every person complete in Christ" through an ever-increasing knowledge of God's wisdom (Colossians 1:25-29).

- A frequent concern in the New Testament epistles is a failure to pursue the knowledge of God. Paul called this “philosophy and empty deception” in Colossians 2:8 and things which “have the appearance of wisdom” in Colossians 2:23.
- To be sure, divine wisdom is never properly appraised by a mind that is set on the flesh. To worldly people, it looks like foolishness and holds little appeal (1 Corinthians 1:18, 2:1-8, 2:12-14). We must learn to be okay with the alienation that comes from being spiritual people in a lost world.





# **Practical Applications**

- Avail yourself of opportunities to learn. Classes, lessons, one-on-one studies, blogs and articles, podcasts, a daily Bible reading plan, etc. Nobody is expected to have a master's degree in theology — just a working, useful, practical knowledge of the scriptures. We should know about God what God has revealed (Deut. 29:29, 30:10, 30:14-20).
- Don't undersell your intellect. The human brain is one of God's crowning achievements in creation. An underutilized mind is no different than a buried talent!



# Practical Applications

- Be careful not to make everything about “book smarts.” Knowledge is important, but in 2 Peter 1, it is neither the first nor the last of the Christian virtues. Knowledge can lead to arrogance (1 Cor. 8:1-3). It can lead to vanity, when in the wearisome pursuit of knowledge we have failed to put truth into practice (Ecc. 12:9ff).
- Don’t be ashamed of the conclusions you come to if they are based on scripture (2 Tim. 2:14-15). Be peaceful as you engage with others, but hold to convictions confidently.