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GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And welcome church family. Welcome visitors. It feels so good to be with you. Just a reminder that God is bigger than your circumstances. Let's worship Him this morning. You are so loved.

BS: We're going to worship the Lord today. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much for the gift of your love to us. We're asking in Jesus' name, Lord, that you would craft in us your spirit and your law that it would be written on our hearts. Lord, we love you and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – 2.Chronicles 1,10-12 – Hannah Schuller

Would you open your Bibles with me to 2nd Chronicles 1:10-12. Let's feed our faith this morning with 2nd Chronicles 1:10-12. Trying to give a little bit of time for you to find it in your Bible. Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given unto you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

INTERVIEW – Hannah Schuller (HS) with Chad Blake (CB)

CB: Today I have the pleasure of interviewing someone who needs absolutely zero introduction around here. Hannah, obviously we all know who you are and what you do, the importance that you have at this ministry, but what a lot of people might not know is what you've been doing with youth over the last year, so could you fill us in on that?

HS: Yeah, yeah, well about a year and a half ago, my daughter Haven came to me and she said mom, can you.. I've been doing the Nights of Healing and stuff like that, she goes can you come and speak to our Sunday school class? And I was thinking about it and I'm like yeah, absolutely. And then I started thinking about all the things I wanted to teach her about the Lord and about faith and how the Bible talks that we have to be so intentional with our kids. It's really easy to think oh just because we know this stuff about the Lord, our kids know it. That's not the case. They're new. They're newer. We have to teach them. And so I said absolutely, and then I started thinking, if I have these things I want to share and teach Haven, I should be teaching it to all the kids in our church. We are a spiritual family. So I started teaching them, and we make it fun, we do a lot of games and things like that, but I love to spiritually challenge them because they are capable. I mean it doesn't matter what age you are, when you challenge them, they're capable. A lot scholars believe that John the Apostle was 12-years-old when God called him to change the world, to call him to follow Him. And so that's why he often says I'm the one that Jesus loves. He was like a kid. He knew, he felt, he knew that Jesus loved him. So I tell the kids, I'm like hey if God called John at 12, do you think He thinks you're too young to change the world? And I've been like just hammering them with this idea, and they're like nope, nope, we're not too young. So it's been so cool to see them rise to the spiritual challenge, and also just to have fun and bond with each other, so it's been a lot of fun.

Ask for the Right Things

CB: Yeah and I mean Hannah probably wouldn't toot her own horn with this, but we have seen the junior high ministry just explode over the last year because of her just outpouring and her love and attention and your care for those kids. So this last week you went to Forest Home, and you were there sleeping in that bunkhouse. Tell us a little bit about camp and how camp went.

HS: Yes, man, first I was telling our pre-service prayer group, I'm like feels so good to be in air conditioning right now. I'm like it feels so good. So it was definitely like the full camp experience, but the spiritual fruit was incredible. And my prayer for these kids was like no matter where they're were, if the Lord would take them just one step higher and closer to Him than they've been before. And I watched every single kid on our trip, that that prayer manifest before my eyes, and it was so cool. A few little stories. One of our kids, or one of our youngers, he's 11, the first day we're at camp, he gets super homesick, and he's like oh, I really miss my mom, I want to go home. And I'm like oh no! So I start talking to him and I'm like talking about Joshua, and I'm like remember like the Lord calls him to be strong and courageous. And I have big plans for these kids. I'm like we're going to eventually go on missions trips and like think about like being brave and strong because God's going to call you to do a lot of things in your life that are going to feel intimidating. And so it was so precious, he was like sticking it through, I could see him trying to be brave. The night we had the altar call night, he came up to me and just his eyes were just full like about to brim over with tears, and he goes Miss Hannah, now I know why God wanted me to stay here. And I was like why? And he goes He wanted me to get saved. And then I like see this 11-year-old kid like reading his Bible, writing things in his Bible, and before he was so sweet and precious, but he was more coming for the fun, the games and stuff like that. So to see that. Another kid who was 15, it was actually my really good friend's son, and I'd asked her for a prayer, if she had any prayer requests, and she goes please pray for my son. He used to be a Christian, but I feel like he is coming of age, he went through some hard things, and now he doesn't believe in God. And I go you know what, we've got one spot left on our teen grove cam, like he should come; he should join us. So he came and normally he wouldn't even go to youth group but I think because it was a camp and there was going to be all these fun things, he came, and the same thing – the night of the altar call, he did not go forward, he stayed there. He was on the bleachers and I saw him with his head down, and I went over to him and I noticed that he was crying, I said hey can I talk to you for a second? So I pulled him over to the side and I said hey, what are you feeling right now? And he goes I feel God. I feel God. And then I got to pray with him and he boldly re-dedicated his life to the Lord. And here are these prayers just being answered before our eyes, like my friend and I had been praying for him, and to just see the Lord, like he felt the presence of God in that moment. And one more last short one, another one of our 11-year-old girls, same thing, she's such a sweetheart, usually comes just to enjoy the games and have fun, and I saw her one night worshipping. I hadn't seen her do this before. She was worshipping with her hands out like this at worship night, and then I saw her singing, and then the whole rest of the evening when we had cabin talk time, she was like bawling, and she was like I felt God! I felt God! And she hadn't had that experience before, and to see, it doesn't matter the age, He's the God of all of us at any age. And so to see her also, then she was like writing in her Bible. And so God is so good, and to see what He's doing in our church, and to see what He's doing in our kids, it's just amazing, so yeah, it was an incredible week.

CB: I should have heard these answers before service so I wasn't crying during the livestream but camp is so powerful, and just to hear these stories reminds me of my times at camp and seeing kids at camp, so just God bless you for taking those kids to camp, and all of you who helped send kids to camp, as well.

HS: Yes, a lot of people support.

CB: Just what a blessing and what a privilege it is to take kids up to the mountains for a week to really experience God in a fresh way. So Hannah, just thank you. Would you join me in thanking Hannah for all of her hard work?

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together as we do every week. Hold your hands like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Thanks you can be seated.

Ask for the Right Things

MESSAGE/PRAYER – Ask for the Right Things

Okay, let me begin today with a serious question and it's a fun question, and I want you, when I say serious, I want you to ask it of yourself in your mind. I want you to answer this question in your mind: if God appeared to you tonight and said to you 'ask for anything and it's yours,' how would you answer that question? Think about it just for a minute; don't have to say it aloud, but just kind of wonder how you'd answer that question. God says, king of the universe can give you anything you want. Ask for anything and it's yours. How do you answer that question?

I pitted this question to our staff, our team this week on Tuesday. They didn't know they were Guinea pigs. To be honest, I didn't know they were Guinea pigs except their answers were so good, I thought I would share them with you, and let's see if this sounds like some of the answers you might give. Some people said I'd love some peace in my life. One person said I want to sleep better. Another said I want security in my life; I want more security. Some people said I have financial needs that need to be met. Couple people said I'd love to have a house. Young people today, very hard to get a house, except in Orange County where house prices aren't so bad.

Some people said I have family that I would love to be saved. What a great request that is. And a couple other people said I have health problems, either with me or friends or family. Money problems. And of course somebody raised their hand, cheeky, and said can I get more wishes? Right? And we have all of these things that we have, right? These things that if God came to us and asked us, what would you ask. I would ask Lord, heal my son. And many other things that we might ask. What would we ask for?

And here's a good question. Of all those things I mentioned, there's probably a few more, does God want you to have all these things? It's a good question. Does He?

Now I don't want you to take my word for it, I want you to ask the Bible. Is it God's will that you, His beloved children, have all these things? And if you don't know the answer to it, the likelihood of you getting all these things is very slim. Good thing you came to church today, because Pastor Bobby has the answer, and the answer is yes. He does. But there's a big "if" attached to that yes.

The enemy wants to keep you in the dark when it comes to this question. Enemy wants you to be guessing. The enemy wants you to be doubting. The enemy wants you to be sort of not sure what the Bible says, or not sure what God's will is. But we don't have to guess God's will. Isn't that great news? He's already told us. It's right here. We can know it. We don't have to guess.

And that brings me to the story of Solomon, a man actually was asked this question and his answer is one that we have taught on now thousands of years later. Solomon is a new king. His dad, King David, a legend, a living legend. Throughout the scriptures after King David, David is used as the messianic king, the example of what the Messiah will be like. And King David just did so many wonderful things. He actually created the kingdom, in many ways. Yes, Saul did many things, but David is one who united the tribes. He made Jerusalem the capital. He brought peace and prosperity to the kingdom. And after he died, he anoints and calls Solomon to be his heir, which is a challenge, because David has many sons, and Solomon is not the eldest. Did you know that? So Solomon is the picked one, the chosen one.

And at his coronation, the new king approaches the hill of Gibeon where the Ark of the Covenant and the tabernacle are, and there he has a great presentation, and he leads and maybe gives a speech. He talks to it says thousands of his commanders and leaders, thousands of judges, and the various heads of families, and all of these dynasties and speaks to many people, does a lot of glad handing. As you say in politics, he shakes a lot of babies and kisses a lot of hands. I got that backwards. Shakes a lot of hands and kisses a lot of babies.

And then it says that after all of this, this new young king, Solomon, then burns a thousand offerings before the Lord as an act of worship. There's probably a big party and then he goes home. Its late at night, maybe early into the morning, plops down into bed, finally some peace and quiet, goes (SIGHS) sits down, and this is what I think he does. I think palm goes to head, and he says I am in trouble. You ever felt that way? Big event, all this energy, commotion, excitement, it's all positive, but Solomon has real problems as the king. He's got real problems. He's got money problems. He's got political problems. He's got family problems. You ever had one of those? He's got enemy problems. He's surrounded by his enemies. And boy, does he have big shoe problems. You know what a big shoe problem is? When you have to take over for the boss that's leaving, you get his job. Big shoe problem. Take over a big ministry. Big shoe problem. You adopt a kid. Its big shoes to fill. I've had a big shoe problem before, I think. I've had a few big shoes to fill. Eleven and a half.

Ask for the Right Things

Maybe you felt that way, maybe you feel like you're facing one of these problems, a money problem, a political problem, a big shoe problem, an enemy problem, a health problem, an honor problem, a respect problem, a friendship problem, a long life problem, a health problem.

So here's Solomon, he's got all these problems. And wouldn't you know it, the greatest thing that could ever happen to a person, not only does God show up, but God asks him the best question you could ever be asked by God. I'll give you anything. What do you want?! Whoa, wouldn't you love that?

And with all these problems that Solomon has, that God says ask for anything and it's yours, here's what Solomon asks for. He asks for two things. Now if you were here a few weeks ago, or a few months ago, we talked briefly about this. If you grew up in church, you know the first answer probably. What's the first one? Say it. (AUDIENCE – wisdom) What is it? (AUDIENCE – wisdom) I can almost hear you. (AUDIENCE – wisdom) Wisdom! Okay.

But there's a second one. There's a second one, and a lot of us miss it. And last time I talked about this, somebody said hey, I got the first one right, and I said you got one out of two. That's a fifty percent. In school, a fifty percent is a what? (AUDIENCE – F) That's an F. It's okay. Just kidding. What's the second thing? Some of you know. I heard somebody say it. (AUDIENCE – knowledge) Knowledge.

Okay, Solomon doesn't just ask for wisdom, he also asks for knowledge. Wisdom and knowledge. And this is God's response to Solomon. "God says to Solomon, since this is your heart's desire." Everyone say heart's desire. (AUDIENCE – heart's desire) What does that mean? It means it's what you really want! When nobody's looking. When you're hooked up to a lie detector. When you can ask in secret and nobody knows what the answer is. It's what you want! It's the thing you want the most. Your heart's desire. It's in your blood, it's in your bones. This is what I want. That's what Solomon had. And God can see the heart, don't forget.

So God sees Solomon's heart, and He says "since this is your heart's desire, and since you've not asked for wealth, and since you've not asked for possessions, or honor," how many of you know he needs wealth if you're going to run a kingdom. How many of you know he needs possessions. He needs an army. How many of you know he needs honor. He can't have people disrespecting the throne. "Nor have you asked for the death of your enemies." How many of you know Solomon is surrounded by enemies. "And since you've not asked for long life," how many of you know a lot of people want Solomon dead. And by the way, he might have eaten something that night and he's oh, my stomachs not feeling good. I don't feel right, huh?

"But, you've asked for" what? Say it. (AUDIENCE – wisdom) And (AUDIENCE – knowledge) one more time, you've asked for (AUDIENCE – wisdom) and (AUDIENCE – knowledge) good, "to govern my people over whom I've made you the king. Therefore, wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you;" everybody say also (AUDIENCE – also). Who needs some also today? "I will also give you," say it, (AUDIENCE – knowledge) come on now (AUDIENCE – wealth) "and I will give you" (AUDIENCE – possession) "and I will give you" (AUDIENCE – honor) "such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." Somebody say amen. (AUDIENCE – amen) Knowledge and wisdom equals all these things.

I have a question for you. Did God want Solomon to have all these things? (AUDIENCE – yes) The answer is yes. If Solomon didn't get.. here's what the desire of my heart. Here's what the heart's desire for wisdom and honor, and wisdom and knowledge means. It means that if Solomon didn't get those other things, that if God gave Solomon wisdom and knowledge but he didn't get any honor, and he was disrespected, and he didn't get any luck, and he didn't get any money, and things never went his way, and he even found himself dying at a young age, he would have been grateful that God gave him his heart's desire. That's what it means, heart's desire. That's the main thing he wanted.

For Solomon to just get wisdom and knowledge, was all he wanted. And that's why God gave him all these things.

Does God want us to have all these things? Does He? The answer is yes, if. Yes, if. Okay let's try this again. Does God want to have all these things? What is the answer? (AUDIENCE – yes, if) If. That's a big if. That's a big if. Let me tell you why. The 'if' is there because God loves us. We live in God's abundant universe. There is no lack here. We eat from the cattle on a thousand hills. In the shepherding of the Father, we rest on pastures, green pastures. We lack nothing. But here's why there's an "if" in there.

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In God's abundance universe, that abundance will harm us or even destroy us if we lack three things. I bet you can guess the first two. If we lack any of these three things, God's abundance will harm us. Here's the first thing. I'm going to give you a guess. I'm going to give you a guess. Here's we go. (AUDIENCE – wisdom) wisdom, yes, and number two is going to be, (AUDIENCE – knowledge) knowledge, okay, and here's number three. I'm adding one, and I have a reason to add one. I'm not adding it, the Bible adds it. Here's the third one. The answer is righteousness. Wisdom, knowledge, righteousness. And we'll come back to Solomon and see why that's important.

Wisdom, knowledge, righteousness. Why righteousness? Here's what Jesus teaches us. Don't worry. Is that a command or advice? What do you think? I think it's a command. If it's a command, that means we can obey it. And it means if we obey it, that's good advice. That's circuit, anyway. Don't worry. Don't worry about where you're going to eat. Don't worry about what you're going to wear. Don't worry about the roof over your head. Don't worry about the honor. Don't worry about the health. Don't worry about this. Don't worry about that. Don't worry. Stop worrying about it. Swat it down. Just swat it down! Don't worry. And a lot of critics say, can you believe Jesus taught people in this dangerous world we live in, to not worry? I could believe it. And that's not all He taught us. It wasn't just don't worry, but instead do this: seek after, seek.. I'll say it. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and then what? And all these things will be added to you.

The kingdom of God and His righteousness. Or we could say the reign of God and His righteousness. Or we can say, and I will, the wisdom, the knowledge and the righteousness of God. Does God want you to have all these things? The answer is, two words, the first one is? Yes, and the second is (AUDIENCE – if) if, yes, if our hearts desire, all of us, everything within us, is for three things: wisdom, knowledge, righteousness. You got it. We have some good students in the house. And that is because, if you don't have, if you're missing just one of those three things, you'll be harmed by all these things.

Let me give you some examples. NFL. Many of you think NFL stands for National Football League. Now in the NFL, you have many young men who are incredibly gifted. They're just in every aspect, genetically they've got it, mentally they've got it, the knowledge, the experience, the hours on the field, the heart, they give it all. They've got it all. They've got enough to be in that top one-one thousandth of one percent to be in the NFL, and because of that, we pay them millions of dollars to watch them throw around a piece of leather and bump into each other. While we eat our nachos, right? And they receive, these young men, sometimes eighteen, nineteen, twenty years old, remember what it was like being eighteen? Somebody writes these guys checks in the amounts of fifty million dollars. A hundred million dollars. And over and over, we've seen that these same men, when they finish the NFL, oftentimes in their late 20's or early 30's, lose and leave with nothing. In fact, they leave with worse than nothing. They leave with debt and burned bridges and bad mistakes. And so this cycle is continued over and over, where young men coming into the NFL have seen how the men before them blew up their lives because of this money. Isn't that crazy? That a hundred million dollars could harm someone? Isn't that crazy? And so now many of these young men have gone to wise men for advice, and one of those guys is a gentlemen named Dave Ramsey. Who's heard of Dave Ramsey? Dave Ramsey. And they come to Dave and they say Dave, I just got a check for fifty million dollars. I'm eighteen years old. I can't even order a beer and I got millions of dollars. Right? What do I do?

Here's what Dave Ramsey says. He says NFL stands for not for long. Not for long. And he teaches them to sock away a lot of that money, and invest that money, and set aside money for taxes, and set aside money for this and for that, and to invest. And so because of that.. so what do these guys lack? What do these NFL guys lack? They lack what? (AUDIENCE – wisdom) Wisdom. Financial wisdom, that's all they lack, because they're so young. It's a bad mix. So they fix that problem with a wise man named Dave Ramsey, you see, and the money doesn't harm them in the same way. Okay.

Second example. Some of you remember the late great Jim Rohn, used to speak at the Crystal Cathedral, amazing guy, one of my heroes. No one here would say Jim Rohn is unwise. He absolutely one of the wisest people that's probably ever lived. And he shares this story that early on, maybe in his early 30's, he makes a few million dollars, doing very well from a business, and he's now invested and on the board of a handful of businesses, and one of these businesses is in trouble. They're doing fine in terms of customers and sales, they have some big receivables, but they're in a cash crunch. So they want to get a line of credit from a bank. But they are a newish business, they're not able to do it, and so Rohn, being a board member, says I'll tell you what I'll do.

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I'll co-sign and personally guarantee this loan of \$200,000 so the business can get through this cash crunch, because it has a bright future. So he signs that contract. They receive the \$200,000, they recover, and they pay back the loan. Everybody's great.

Eventually he leaves, years go by, and he gets a call from the bank. Hello Mr. Rohn, he had heard that same business had gone out of business. Just.. this is what happens. He gets a phone call, hello Mr. Rohn, such and such business has gone out of business, they borrowed a million dollars from us, and we have you here as a personal guarantee for all of this money. He says now hold on, hold on. I signed that one contract for a line of credit many years ago, but I did not agree to the second note. And they said no Mr. Rohn, we have here from you, you signed a continuing guarantee. And what he said is I learned what continuing means. Continuing, you see.

Now if he had paid two thousand dollars for an attorney to review the contract, sounds like a lot of money, but once you lose a million dollars, it seems like a deal. You see a lot of attorney's nodding in the audience today, of clients that lost a lot of money. And he says now I know what continuing costs.. I forget what the sum was. It was a lot. But he says I know what it cost per letter. And that cost him his livelihood. He had to start over after that. Isn't that interesting? Now did Jim Rohn lack wisdom? The answer is no. What did he lack? Knowledge. Just didn't know how to read a contract. Okay, third example. I had this person's name, I'm not going to say it because I don't want to talk ill of the dead. But not too long ago, very famous pop singer, we all would know this person, we listened to his music, a great guy, wonderful man, made millions of dollars, definitely was rich when he died, and there when he was dying, around his bed the last day, his heirs, his family members, while he was in his final hours, and he was still awake, were yelling at each other and arguing with one another about who was going to get the money. So there he is, the people that are supposed to love him and hold his hand and miss him when he's gone, what do they care about? Money. And in fact it got so bad that the police had to come and escort out, or security, escort out some of his family members from his room because they're arguing over this lump sum of whatever it was, thirty million dollars, that's going to be dispersed.

So what did they lack? Right? Who here thinks what they did was evil? Nobody wants to judge? I'll judge. That was evil. That's wicked. That's lowest of the low, that's bottom of the barrel, right? That's awful. They lacked righteousness. And I believe every dollar that goes to every single one of them will be a curse. Right? We just know it won't bless them. We know it won't help them. Doesn't matter how much it is. If it's a billion dollars, we just know it's going to make their life worse. Why? Because of what's happening in their heart. Wisdom, knowledge, righteousness.

And that brings me to Solomon. Solomon was incredibly wise. Solomon was incredibly knowledgeable. But Solomon lacked what? Now I was disappointed, he lacked righteousness. I was disappointed to find this out as a young man, because in Sunday school you learn this story about Solomon, the great King Solomon being wise and being learned and knowledgeable. But we don't like to tell the second half of his life. The beginning of Solomon's life, yes, he did these amazing things. He built the temple, which is a huge accomplishment. His father David was prohibited from doing it because of his sin, so Solomon was allowed to build the temple. He accomplished it, finished it, was this great moment, and after that, he just goes downhill and he begins to break.. there's this rule in Deuteronomy 17 for all kings how they're supposed to conduct themselves, and Solomon goes and breaks literally every single command in Deuteronomy 17.

He begins to marry.. you're not supposed to, especially as a king, you're not supposed to marry foreigners outside of your religion, and so he goes and marries hundreds of the daughters of neighboring kings for alliances. They bring, to the kingdom with them, their pagan gods, and to add insult to injury, Solomon then adopts those idols and the worship of those idols within the kingdom. He enacts slave labor, there's a number of other things he does. And you can just see that although he was wise, I mean that's very shrewd, right? That's smart to marry the daughters of foreign kings for alliances. That's wise, isn't it? It is. But it's not righteous. It's breaking God's law.

And you can see he's knowledgeable. And you can actually see he actually attains incredible wealth, and he has a very long life. He's very healthy, but you see at the end of the day, that King Solomon's reign led to the end of the kingdom, and it's at the end of his life that you begin to see the downfall of his kingdom. Very sad. And that's because, though he had wisdom and knowledge, he lacked righteousness. Let's do it one more time? We need what? (AUDIENCE – wisdom) wisdom, number two (AUDIENCE – knowledge, righteousness) righteousness.

Okay, and I'll just finish with these last three. Number one – wisdom. How do we get wisdom? How do we get wisdom? The Bible tells us.

Ask for the Right Things

In the book of James, it says something like this that wisdom comes during and after a season of perseverance. Many of you, you're going through a hard time, many of us, we know what it's like to go through a hard time. A hard time in your job. And then after you get through, it's like oh, thank goodness. And we know what it's like to get through a hard time with your health and everything ends up being fine. And we know what it's like to get through a financial hard time and everything is fine. Or a hard time with your family and then they're fine.

And when we get to the end of that, that season where it's like: and then they're fine, there's an opportunity to look back and grow as a person to gain a principle, to gain some wisdom, to get a lesson from that. But we're always so exhausted, that's such a human nature. I'm this way, too. When you get through, you don't feel like going back and revisiting. Who would? It was horrible. You don't want to go back and look at it.

But can I just tell you, that is a great opportunity to gain some wisdom. And that's what the book of James teaches us. That as we're going through perseverance, and we look back, there's an opportunity to gain wisdom. How do we get it? He says ask. And here's what he says – ask without doubting. Anybody who doubts, when they ask, they're like a ship that's being floated around in the ocean, doesn't know where it's going. You go, ask without doubting. Don't be double minded. Ask and believe that God will give it to you. Isn't that the great thing about wisdom and knowledge and righteousness? If you want it, you ask, and you shall receive. You seek, and you shall find. You knock and the door will be open to you.

Okay, number two. Knowledge. Wow, knowledge, don't get me started. They're calling this now the age of knowledge. There's never been a time where more knowledge has been made available to us, thank you, Lord. There are books, there are podcasts, there are schools, there are classes. My nephew Emerson who's 15-years-old, I just found out, was able to graduate high school early by getting his GED, and just finished one semester of college online. Hey! Some of you are like, I don't know if that's good or bad. It's good, it's good. Anyway, knowledge.

But here's the challenge that we have that I don't think we've had at this degree anytime in human history. Before, it was always hard to get your hand on the book. It was always hard to get your hand on the article. It was hard to get to the class. It was in some other state. Now, you need to know how to build a deck? What do you do? You what? (AUDIENCE – google) You google it. It's on YouTube. You need to know how to fix a toilet? You want to know the history of glass? You want to know where that pillar came from? You want to know where.. whatever, Greg Waltee was born? You can google it! Literally, all knowledge is made available through google, through books, through podcasts.

Here is the danger – beware. It's not all true. It's very hard to unlearn something you learned. Here's something I learned a few years ago. I learned that Sidecar Donuts were the best donuts in the world, and I learned that if I eat them every day, I'm kind of happy. And then I did that for like a couple months, and I started look in the mirror, and I was like.. I'm looking a little like.. pregnant. And so I had to unlearn that, huh? Okay.

Here's what Ronald Reagan said: it's not that my opponents are ignorant, it's just that they know so much that isn't so. Funny line.

So how do I know what's true? Well you can always start here. You always know this is true. Been with us for a long time. Long after all the books of the world have disappeared, this will remain. It's always true. You can trust and you can build your life on this word. Think about God's faithfulness. And you can be an apprentice to all the young people in the house who are looking to grow their lives, apprenticeship is better than the knowledge you get from books. Books are good. I love books. But apprenticeship, studying under someone, the way a plumber would, the way a carpenter would, the way a stonemason would, you apprentice under someone. That's one of the best ways to learn. One of the best ways to learn is to do it.

All right, so we said wisdom, we said knowledge. I think that's it, right? Oh, there's one more? Righteousness? How do we become righteous people? It's a good question. Now someone here is thinking try harder. No! Try harder is not the answer. Here's how we become righteous people. Righteousness comes from the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit comes from Christ crucified. Every sin you've ever done, or ever will do, it died on the cross with Jesus and you've been justified. Our lives now are meant to be a response in gratitude to that. The righteous life doesn't come by looking at a tablet and seeing what the law says. The righteousness comes by having the law tattooed, inscribed, chiseled on our hearts. When your heart becomes the tablet, then you become a righteous man. Then you become a righteous woman. That's when it happens, when it's here. And then you know.

Ask for the Right Things

We used to have this old saying back in the 30's – let your conscience be your guide. Anybody see Pinocchio? Let your conscience be your guide. And there is some really good truth to that, that when we're baptized, we're given this inner compass that says oh don't do that. This inner compass that says you should go help that person. You see? And the more we listen to that, the better we become. And the less we listen to that, the colder we become, and the more distant we come from having it written on our hearts, that it's truly our hearts desire. It's not tablets, its hearts. Written on your heart. It's your conscience. And so much can be accomplished by listening to the do-not. Listening to the thou shalt not. I hate legalism, but there's also this aspect of so much of our righteousness can be by not doing something. I remember in seminary this way that they taught us that it's much better as we're describing God to use what they called ancient form of via-negativa. That you can get closer to understanding God by saying who He is not, than by saying who He is. It's like Michel Angelou used to say, the way I get the statue is by removing what's not statue, you see, and then you see David.

And so much of understanding God is saying God is not hateful, right? God is not unjust. God is not absent. God is not my enemy. To form in some deeper way who God is, and in many ways, saying I do not do this. This is not who I am. I will not act this way, can accomplish so much of the righteous heart. So much of it is not worrying, not being in a frantic hurry all the time, not indulging in self-importance, not lashing out, not speaking negative, not being fearful, not cussing, not mocking, not gossiping, not spending too much, not getting into debt putting your family at harm, not bragging, not being braggadocios, not indulging. And there, David is chiseled away, in your life, you see. Not eating of the tree, not eating of the tree, not eating of the tree. Why do we eat of the tree? Why do we do it? And I heard this from Hannah, this is exactly right. The first sin in humanity was not eating of the tree. The first sin was not believing God. Not believing that what He said was true. That's all they had to do. They had one command. We have many. How many did they have? One. Just don't eat of the tree. And they couldn't believe that one thing. And so here we are.

You can trust God. Isn't God good? God is only good. God is only good all the time. God is just, God is faithful, God is righteousness. God has it all, He has all you need. God is ready to heal, God is ready to save. God is ready to lift up, God is ready to rescue. God has not forgotten about your kids. God has not forgotten about your grandkids. God has not forgotten about you. God is good, always good, all the time. God is abundant. God is faithful. God is overflowing with joy. And God is on your side. Boy, does He love you, let me tell you. He is for you. I just feel like Satan hates it when I say that. I can almost see him going no! God is for you. God loves you. God has truly forgiven you. And God will bring you through.

You can trust God. Here's what we want – we want three things. Our hearts desire. Number one, we want, (AUDIENCE – wisdom) I can't hear you (AUDIENCE – wisdom) and we want (AUDIENCE – knowledge) and what do we want? (AUDIENCE – righteousness) That's right.

Stand with me, guys. We're going to pray. Lift your hands with me. Lord, here's our life. We lay it before you. See our hearts desire. Here's what we desire from the Lord that only you can give. We desire wisdom, Lord. We desire knowledge, Lord. And we desire with all our hearts righteousness, Lord. We desire that we would love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength and with all our mind. We desire, Lord, that you'd fill us with your spirit.

And Father, we thank you that today we can decide to obey you; that we will not worry. We are not worried about money. We are not worried about health. We are not worried about unsaved family members. We are not worried about houses. We are not worried about jobs. We are worried that we could be wise, knowledgeable and good. This is what we ask from you, Lord. Won't you give it to us? We ask, Lord, we ask. We're not going to worry about anything else. We seek your kingdom and we thank you that you're on our side, and we just remind ourselves, and we're just thankful again, God, that you have been faithful to us. That we are here because of you! We thank you for that. You've gotten us this far, you'll take us all the way. If God can be for us, who can be against us? Thank you, Lord. We love you, and it's in the strong name of Jesus we pray, all God's people said, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.