

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 830

April 9, 2025

“Spiritual Discipline #10 - Learning”

In Reformed theology, the role of learning in the life of a believer is integral to the process of sanctification and spiritual growth. This learning is not just an academic pursuit but a deepening of one's relationship with God and understanding of His Word. Scripture emphasizes the importance of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, not only as a means to grow in faith but also as a means to live a life that honors God.

1. Learning is Rooted in God's Word

Reformed theology places a strong emphasis on Scripture as the primary source of knowledge and truth. Believers are called to learn God's Word diligently, for it is the foundation of all wisdom and understanding.

- **Psalm 119:105** – "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
This verse highlights the centrality of Scripture in guiding the believer's life. Learning the Word of God provides direction and illumination in the believer's walk with Christ.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."
Here, the Bible is shown as essential for the believer's growth in righteousness, teaching, and equipping them for godly living.

2. Learning is a Means of Sanctification

Reformed theology stresses the ongoing process of sanctification — being set apart for God's purposes and becoming more like Christ. Learning plays a crucial role in this process, as it transforms the mind and heart.

- **Romans 12:2** – "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Learning is part of the renewal of the mind. The believer grows in their ability to understand God's

will and to live according to it as they learn and apply His Word.

- **Colossians 3:16** – "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
Learning is also communal. As believers grow in knowledge of Christ, they are to teach and encourage one another, reinforcing the idea that Christian growth is not solely individual but involves the body of Christ.

3. Learning Promotes Wisdom and Understanding

In Reformed theology, wisdom and understanding are not just intellectual exercises but are divinely given gifts that lead to a Christlike life.

- **Proverbs 1:7** – "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
True knowledge begins with a reverent understanding of God. Learning to fear the Lord and seeking wisdom are central to the believer's life.
- **James 1:5** – "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."
Wisdom is a gift that God freely gives to those who seek it. Believers are encouraged to learn and seek wisdom through prayer and the study of God's Word.

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 9
Supper, Study and Prayer
Supper @ 6pm
Bible Study @ 7pm
Prayer @ 7:45

Thursday, April 10
Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00

Sunday, April 13
Worship Team Run Through
@ 8:00 a.m.
PALM SUNDAY @ 9:30 a.m.
SESSION MEETING @ 12 p.m.

Wednesday, April 16
NO WEDNESDAY EVENING SUPPER
STUDY AND PRAYER THIS WEEK

Thursday, April 17
MAUNDY THURSDAY @ 7:00

April 18 GOOD FRIDAY
Church open - 7 AM - 2PM

Helping Hands for APRIL 13, 2024

ProPresenter
Elizabeth Floyd
Soundboard
Jane Davis
Live Streaming
Al Floyd
Communion
Dianne Reinoso
Greeter
Joan Rollinson

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Coming Sunday
PALM
SUNDAY
"Ascending to the Passover"
PSALM 24
MATTHEW 20:17-19

Prophecies O.T.

Revealed....

N.T.

Apr	5	Matt 1:1,9:27
Apr	6	1 Chr 17:13
Apr	7	Heb1:5
Apr	8	Job 19:23-27
Apr	9	John 5:24-29
Apr	10	Ps 2:1-3

GROW

Women of HOPE
Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE

4/12/25

**It's never too late to make things
right**

Wednesday Night - 4/16
NO WEDNESDAY EVENING
SUPPER, STUDY, AND PRAYER
DURING HOLY WEEK.

"Food of the Month"
for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry
Boxed Cereal
We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry
Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

SERVE

TLC Devotion
5th Wednesday THIS month
@ 11:00 a.m.
5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

**"In the liveliest evangelical
churches, people strongly feel
they should read their Bible
daily, but only around 15% do
so." So, what things might be
replacing learning more of God
in your life...?**

Prayer Requests:

Janice Worthington, Donna Williams, Ron C., Ms. Ellie, Dale H., Jerry & Alice K., Burton(Erin), The Branch's, Phil Parton, Krishana, HOPE Vision Team, God's peace in the USA, Dave Rendall, Gene & Becky Hale, Sam and Rachael, Joan Rollinson, Will Floyd's Fiancé's Mother: Jennifer, Dianne Reinoso, Cindy (Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchens (Positive Cancer), Pastor Search Committee, Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Ebo (Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty Moyer's son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers, Shelley Riggelman (Bruce), Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.), Ellie Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin.

**"The end of learning is to
know God, and out of that
knowledge to love him and
to imitate him."**
John Milton

UPCOMING
WOMEN OF HOPE
Saturdays at 10 a.m. at HOPE

4/12/25

**It's never too late to make things
right**

4/26/25

**Why do you call one day good and
another day bad?**

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
919-508-6827
Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org
www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh
**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)**

4. Learning is a Path to Greater Christlikeness

The ultimate goal of all learning for the believer is to grow into the image of Christ. Learning is not merely about accumulating knowledge but about transforming into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

- **Ephesians 4:11-13** – "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."
The church's role in teaching and equipping believers is to help them grow into spiritual maturity and Christlikeness.
- **Philippians 3:10** – "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."
Paul's desire for deeper knowledge of Christ is linked with becoming more like Him. Learning about Christ is a means of growing in intimacy with Him and reflecting His character.

5. Learning Leads to Greater Praise and Worship

As believers grow in their knowledge of God, they are moved to worship Him more deeply. The more they learn about God's greatness and His work in salvation, the more they are compelled to praise Him.

- **Psalms 19:1-2** – "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."
Nature itself teaches about God's majesty. As believers learn more about God's creation, it leads them to worship and glorify Him.
- **Romans 11:33-36** – "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."
As believers learn of God's wisdom and greatness, they are led to offer Him praise, recognizing that all things come from Him and are for His glory.

6. Learning is a Life-Long Pursuit

In Reformed theology, the process of learning never ends. The believer's relationship with God continues to deepen, and their understanding of Scripture continues to grow throughout their lifetime.

- **Philippians 1:9-10** – "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."
Knowledge and discernment are to abound as believers grow in love, becoming more pure and blameless in their conduct.
- **1 Corinthians 13:12** – "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."
The believer's knowledge of God will continue to grow even into eternity, where they will know fully as they are known by God.

Conclusion:

In Reformed theology, learning is a vital aspect of the believer's life. It is through learning — particularly through the study of Scripture — that believers grow in knowledge, wisdom, and Christlikeness. This learning is not an isolated intellectual endeavor but a means of deepening one's relationship with God, understanding His will, and living in a way that honors Him.