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## **Monday**

1John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding **so that we may know Him** who is true.

"Theos" is the Greek word meaning God. "Logia" is Greek for "sayings" or "knowledge". Theology then means "knowledge of God". As such every believer is called to be a theologian, one who knows God. The opposite would be to be one who does not know God or an 'a-theologian' or a-theist. So which do you aspire to be? Today, too many believers know too little of God. They have replaced the knowledge of God with feelings about God. They hold opinions, but not the truth of God. Where do you find such knowledge? One place only, God's word. Aspire to be a theologian. Ask the Father to give you a greater desire to know Him.

## **Tuesday**

1Pet. 3:15 Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

Just as having a baby makes you a parent, so becoming a believer makes you a theologian. The question is not 'are you one,' but will you be a 'good or bad one?' Just as parents should strive to be competent and capable, so believers should strive to be competent and capable theologians. Just as a bad parent endangers lives and influences generations, so bad theologians endanger the eternal destiny of generations to come. We must not underestimate the stakes. Nor should we place the responsibility upon another. God calls you to be a knowledgeable and grounded believer: one who knows Him and His word. Make it your commitment.

## **Wednesday**

Eccl. 7:5 It is better to listen...

Listening, genuine listening to others, is an acquired taste and a needed one. Much disunity, misunderstanding, and upheaval comes from a failure of individuals to hear one another. We are often good at jumping to conclusions. We are too practiced at assuming. We are proficient at misinterpreting motives and intentions. We are stellar in defense, capable in excuse, but not too good at really listening to another. Listening takes intent, patience, grace, and wisdom. These God has in abundance and is willing to give to you. Today, practice listening to your spouse, your friend, your enemy, even to your God. Slow your assumptions, pray earnestly in the moment, and listen carefully. Really listen.

## **Thursday**

John 3:18 "He who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

"Doctrine" like theology is much maligned. Someone will comment, "I'm not concerned about doctrines, I'm just a Christian." Or even, "I don't want to know about doctrine. I just want to know Jesus." But doctrines are the teachings of scripture about Jesus. It is through biblical doctrine that we know Jesus, who He is, what He did for us, why He had to die for us. To embrace wrong doctrine is to embrace false hope. The thought of arguing over 'doctrine' may rightly leave you cold, but knowing correctly doctrines of God is to know salvation and assurance. Your doctrine is not just important, it is essential to eternity.

## **Friday**

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Your willingness to forgive is not to be dependent upon another's request, attitude, or actions. Even when you were in rebellion against God, Jesus died to forgive you. His grace extended to you when you were not worthy of His notice, care, or love. Now, understanding such love and grace for you, He requires you to readily forgive others. "Just as Christ also has forgiven you."