

Somebody Needs to Get to God

Psalm 78: 1-8

We live in an age of endless information. Mankind has made great advancements in recent years. Great strides have been in medicine, the environment, energy conservation, transportation, education, and so on. I'm sure folks a hundred years ago would've never dreamed of a world such as we live in.

But as I pondered the advancements we've made, I wondered about the real impact they have made in individual lives. We may be living longer, but are we living better? We may be healthier, but are we happier? We may live in convenience, but what about confidence? Why is that we have more communication access than we've ever known and yet so many people live isolated lives?

I think the answer to that question is found in the source of their information. People are depending on worldly knowledge rather than godly wisdom. The fact is all the advancements in the world can't bring about peace in the soul or harmony among men. Mankind may know more than he has ever known about physical and global issues, but we are raising a generation that is illiterate to the things of God. All the earthly knowledge in the world is of little value if man doesn't have a right relationship with God.

How do we measure up to God's expectations? Many Christians today know more about what is happening around the world than they do of God's will for their lives. The verses that we've read today deal with godly instruction. More than anything else we need to know our Lord in a more intimate way. If a change isn't made in our churches, we are going to see an anemic church in the future, one that knows of the rituals, but has no meaningful relationship. I want to consider the [urgencies](#) revealed as we think on: [Somebody Needs to Get to God](#).

I. The Requirements for Godly Instruction (1-3) – If we are to obtain godly instruction, we must know what is required to receive it. We are as close to God as we want to be at any given time in life. We have the opportunity to know as much of God as we desire. Our Christian life is a growing process. So what can we discover about the requirements for godly instruction?

A. It Requires our Attention (1a) – God gives a simple command, [Give ear, O my people, to my law](#). This isn't difficult to understand. God simply wants us to seek Him. He wants us to be sensitive to His voice in our lives.

- Now I know that God doesn't speak to us in an audible voice, but we can hear from Him. The key to hearing from the Lord requires our attention first and foremost. We will never hear from the Lord if we aren't listening.
- He will speak to us through His Word. That is how God communicates with us in this day. If you desire godly instruction, go to the source, His Word. The problem that many have in our generation is they are looking for instruction in all the wrong places. The secular news sources and popular talk show hosts can't give you what you need. There is nothing that will ever replace God's Word. It must be the basis for Christian living! If you will commit to living according to God's Word and giving an ear to His will for your life, you are well on your way to obtaining godly instruction!

B. It Requires our Ambition (1b) – *Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.* Obtaining godly instruction requires more than a listening ear; it also requires a learning ear.

- We are told to *incline* our ears to the words of His mouth. That word means “*to stretch out or extend, to bend or bow.*” *It has the idea of putting forth the effort necessary to receive the Word of God.* Our lives require that we seek to know more of the Lord. You can come to church three times a week and hear the Word, but if there isn't a desire to learn more of the Lord, it will not produce the desired result.
- We need to come to the house of God hungry for His Word. We need to come seeking help for our lives. We need to come with an attitude and resolve to literally stretch ourselves out, bending and bowing unto the Lord with a genuine desire to hear from Him. Did you come with the expectation of hearing from the Lord? Have you come to get help for your life? If not, you need to develop a holy ambition for godly instruction.

C. It Requires our Acceptance (2-3) – *I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: [3] Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.* These requirements not only involve a listening ear and a learning ear, they also involve a loyal ear, one that is willing to accept what God has said and apply that instruction to our lives.

- The Lord had spoken and they had heard, but we find they also had *known*. This reveals a very important aspect in obtaining godly instruction. Knowing is more than mere knowledge; it involves “*recognizing, admitting, and confessing the truth of God.*” That is what the Hebrew word *yada* literally means. When we truly know the Word of God we have submitted ourselves unto it. We have recognized God's truth; we have admitted that it is right, and we are confessing to do our best to live by it.
- Many Christians understand what God says, but they are not willing to apply that truth to their life. If we are to benefit from godly instruction, it must be applied to our lives. When we fail to apply the truth we know, we have sinned. *Jam.4:17 – Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

I. The Requirements for Godly Instruction (1-3)

II. The Responsibility to Godly Instruction (4-5) – Along with the requirements for godly instruction come responsibilities. Notice:

A. It is to be Embraced (4) – *We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.* This goes hand in hand with our accepting truth, only this is an obligation that we have for those around us. Once we have acquired that truth we are to embrace it and live by it, allowing the truth of God to establish the foundation for our lives. We are to share that truth with our children and those who have not come to the realization that we have. This is a simple responsibility, but often it goes undone. We have a responsibility to live according to the will of God.

- What a tragedy for Christians to have the wisdom of God and fail to embrace it in their everyday lives. It has often been said, if you want to know the truth just ask a child. Have we embraced the truth of God in such a way that our lives are built upon it and our children recognize that? They should know where we stand and how we intend to respond to situations in our lives. Our lives should be built on nothing less than the will of God.
- How often do you talk of the things of God at home? Is your relationship with God apparent outside the church walls? Do you live as if you are resting in the wisdom of God or depending on outside resources? It is a sobering thought, but our children will serve the Lord in much the same way as we do. They live in a world where the wisdom of God is not being offered. We need to instill in them all the wisdom of God that we can. They will need it!

B. It is to be Established (5) – *For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:* The godly instruction we've obtained shouldn't be kept within and taken to the grave with us. We have a responsibility to those who will follow us to establish the ways of God.

- I often think of the awesome responsibility that we as a church family have. We must take responsibility for the atmosphere of our church. If it is to be what it ought to be, we must secure that! We are right now in the process of molding the future of our church. It is apparent that previous generations have done a good job in that area, but they are no longer here. The torch has been passed on to us to carry. Our young people are looking to us for direction in their lives. It is likely that this church will carry on in much the same way as what we have instilled in them.

- If we desire a place for future generations to find help and encouragement then we must establish godly wisdom in their lives. Many of us have already been down the path of trouble and realized the mistakes we have made. We must do all we can to help our children avoid the same mistakes. We must not compromise on the truth of God's Word. We must stand on the Bible as our sole authority in an ever changing world.

I. The Requirements for Godly Instruction (1-3)

II. The Responsibility to Godly Instruction (4-5)

III. The Results of Godly Instruction (6-8) – If the wisdom of God is obtained and shared in a responsible manner, it will have positive results. People and churches will prosper when they are led by the Lord. If we will only seek godly instruction in our lives we will ensure positive results and leave a legacy for others. Notice the results of godly instruction.

A. It Secures the Future (6) – *That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:* The psalmist spoke of establishing a testimony within their own lives and families in v.5 and here we find the results of a life lived for God. It has an impact on future generations. The children which are yet to be born will embrace the ways of God and continue to share them with their children to come.

- You may disagree with me, but I am concerned about the future of our nation. The church has a bright future, we have some dedicated young people coming on, but unless their generation continues to live for God and make an impact, I shudder to think what the next generation will face.

- If we will determine to nurture them in the ways of God, we have done our part to ensure a godly heritage to come. The only hope our nation has is to turn to God and we can have a direct influence on that. One of these young men may be called of God and become a tremendous influence in coming days. Live for God and He will honor your faithfulness!

B. It Strengthens the Faith (7) – *That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:* Lives lived under godly instruction make an impact and those who follow will see and know that what we had was real. They will no doubt remember the times that we experienced the Lord's blessings through obedience to His will. They will learn to lean upon the Lord in the same ways that we did.

- Many times I have been encouraged by the life of a saint of God. I watched their life as they walked through a valley and I saw the God they served supply their need. I found strength and hope from their lives.

- We have been given the privilege to share what God has done for us, and by doing so, we have planted a seed that will be hidden in the hearts of our youth. They may go years before they need it, but God will bring hope to their lives through a remembrance of former blessings. I don't know much, but I know that God never changes. If He could do it before, He can do it again! Let's seek and share the instruction of God so that we can pass in on to help strengthen the faith of future generations.

C. It Subdues the Failures (8) – [And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.](#) It is well known that many follow the example that has been set before them. If our lives are lived in such a way that little credence is given to the ways of God then that is exactly what we can expect of future generations. There is enough of the same old thing going on in our churches. We need to live a life that will present something that our children desire. I don't want to be guilty of leading our young people into a life of rebellion and coldness toward the Lord. We have the opportunity to be a positive influence on them.

- Much of what they see in religion leaves little to be desired. I want to leave a legacy that promotes spiritual growth, awareness of the Lord, and a genuine closeness to Him. If we can instill the right instruction in our youth, we will help them avoid the failures of previous generations.
- The track record over the past decades has not been as glorious as we would like to believe. We have the chance to make a significant difference for those who will follow us. We just need to get to God and allow Him to work in our lives and be willing to share His wisdom with all we can.

I wonder how long it's been since we sincerely sought the wisdom of God. We need to return to the old paths and desire God to lead us into the greener pastures that He has for us. Is there a need? Why not come as He leads?