An open book with a dark brown cover and blank, cream-colored pages. The book is centered in the frame against a white background. The text is overlaid on the left page.

Living and Learning

Psalm 78:1-7

Psalm 78:1-7

- “Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 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. 4 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. 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; 6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, 7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments”

Living and Learning

- “Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.” (Walter Cronkite)
- “Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers.” (Steven Spielberg)
- “He who opens a school door, closes a prison.” (Victor Hugo)
- “Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.” (Confucius)

Does An Education Have Value?

- Consider the alternative. Solomon did and concluded that wisdom gained by learning is better
 - Ecc. 2:12-14 - “Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; For what can the man do who succeeds the king? -Only what he has already done. 13 Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness. 14 The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness.”

Does An Education Have Value?

- Ecc. 7:11-12 - “Wisdom is good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun. 12 For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.”
- Ecc. 8:1 - “Who is like a wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, And the sternness of his face is changed.”

The Effects Of Ignorance

- An ignorant person believes that what he knows is the only and absolute truth
 - Prov. 28:26 - “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.”
 - Prov. 3:5 - “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding”

The Effects Of Ignorance

- This is particularly dangerous in matters of sound doctrine
 - 1Cor. 15:34 - “Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”

The Effects Of Ignorance

- If they don't know or understand a matter, then it must be "a bad thing"
 - Jude 10 - "But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves."
 - 2Peter 2:12 - "But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption"

The Effects Of Ignorance

- Many refuse to call sin “sin”
 - Prov. 14:9 - “Fools mock at sin...”
 - Prov. 10:23 - “To do evil is like sport to a fool...”
- The ignorant do not know that they are ignorant
 - Ecc. 2:14 - “The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness...”

The Effects Of Ignorance

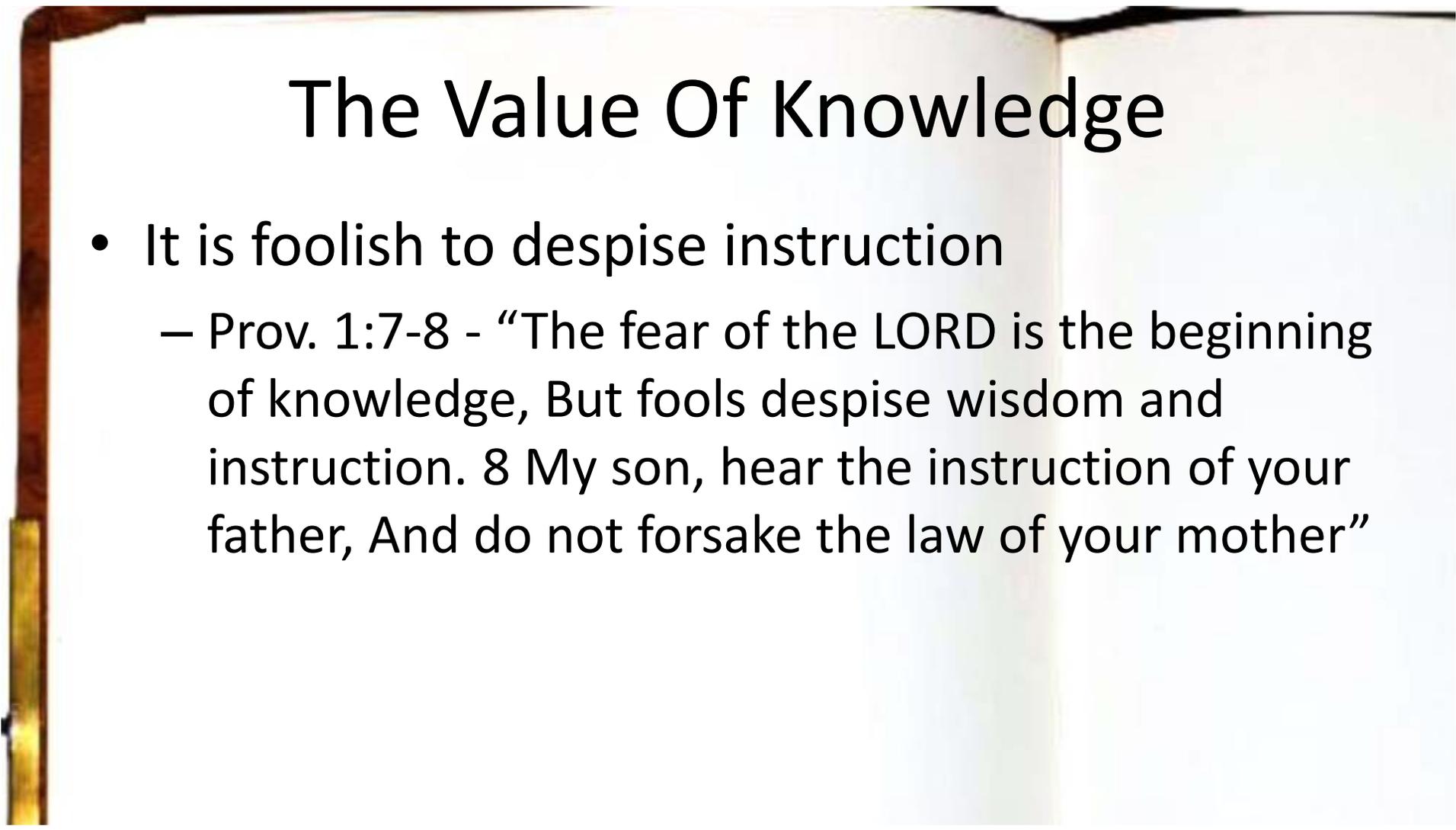
- They are proud of their ignorance
 - Prov. 21:24 - “A proud and haughty man - Scoffer is his name; He acts with arrogant pride.”
 - James 4:16 - “But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”
- Arguments often begin with narrow-mindedness
 - Prov. 20:3 - “It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.”

The Effects Of Ignorance

- The ignorant person lives in the “now” and doesn’t consider the consequences of present actions on the future. He is oblivious to possibilities beyond his own knowledge
 - Prov. 22:3 - “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.”
- The naive young man was caught in the prostitute’s snare because he did not know the danger
 - Prov. 7:21-23

The Effects Of Ignorance

- The gospel cannot be spread through ignorance
 - 1Tim. 1:5-7 - “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.”



The Value Of Knowledge

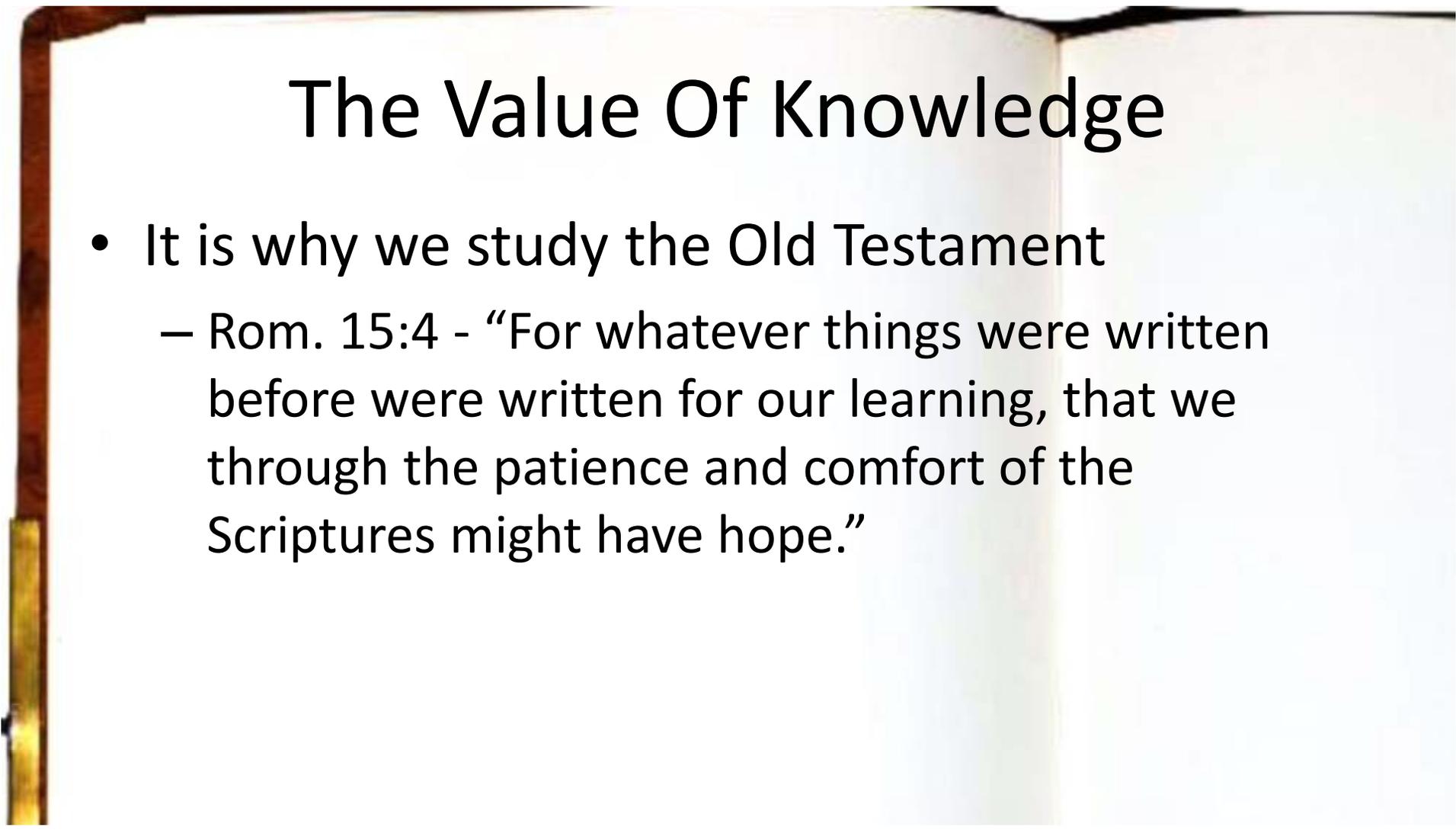
- It is foolish to despise instruction
 - Prov. 1:7-8 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother”

The Value Of Knowledge

- Proverbs was written for a reason
 - Prov. 1:1-4 - “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion.”

The Value Of Knowledge

- Knowledge of history gives appreciation for the present
 - Deut. 4:32-35 - “For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard. 33 Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? 34 Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.”



The Value Of Knowledge

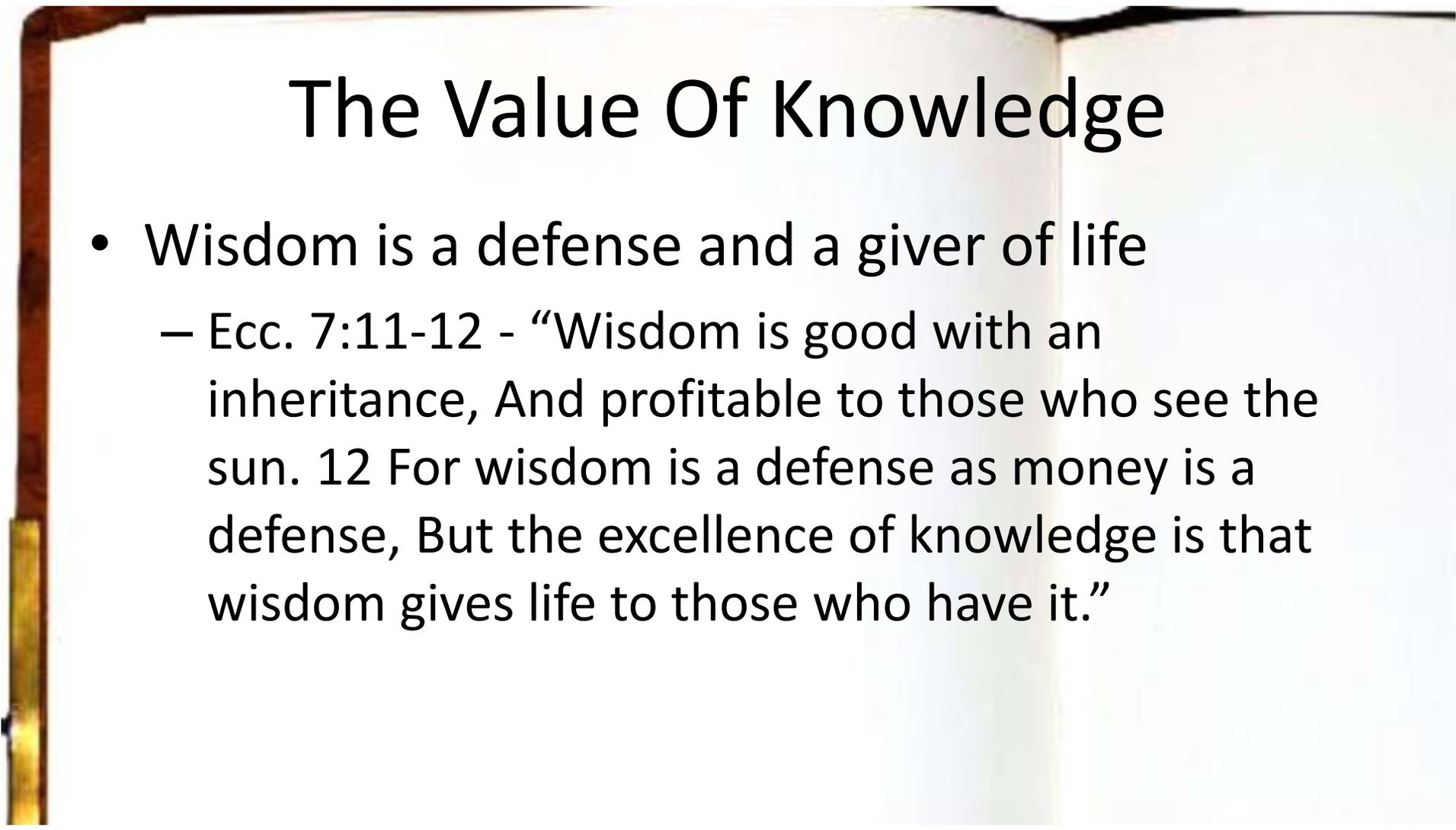
- It is why we study the Old Testament
 - Rom. 15:4 - “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

The Value Of Knowledge

- Knowledge of the past needs to be taught so past errors are not repeated and that righteousness is practiced
 - 1Cor. 10:6-12 - “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

The Value Of Knowledge

- Wisdom gives strength
 - Prov. 24:5-6 - “A wise man is strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; 6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.”
- Wisdom is pleasant and offers possibilities and hope
 - Prov. 24:13-14 - “My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; 14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.”



The Value Of Knowledge

- Wisdom is a defense and a giver of life
 - Ecc. 7:11-12 - “Wisdom is good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun. 12 For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.”

The Limits Of Knowledge

- We cannot learn everything
 - Ecc. 12:12 - “And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.”
- Some things are beyond the wisest person’s grasp
 - Ecc. 7:23-24 - “All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, I will be wise; But it was far from me. 24 As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, Who can find it out?”

The Limits Of Knowledge

- God's works are vast and deep
 - Ecc. 8:16-17 - “When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night, 17 then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. For though a man labors to discover it, yet he will not find it; moreover, though a wise man attempts to know it, he will not be able to find it.”

The Limits Of Knowledge

- Wisdom alone won't change the human predicament. It is not a cure-all for every issue of life
 - Ecc. 2:14-16 - “The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived That the same event happens to them all. 15 So I said in my heart, As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, And why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, This also is vanity. 16 For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool!”

The Limits Of Knowledge

- Earthy knowledge is good in moderation
 - Ecc. 7:16 - “Do not be overly righteous, Nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself?”
- Some constantly learn, but never apply it to their lives
 - 2Tim. 3:7 - “Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- Some do not care about opportunities to learn
 - Prov. 17:16 - “Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, Since he has no heart for it?”

Knowledge And The Faith

- Some avoid education, fearing that it is opposed to God and faith
 - Ultimately, all life is in the hands of God - Ecc. 9:1
 - There are many things out of our control - Ecc. 9:11
 - Things come to pass, not because I will, but because God wills - James 4:13-15
 - Nevertheless, we put effort into learning and planning - Ecc. 9:10

Knowledge And The Faith

- Education in matters of the faith is not evidence of a weak faith
 - Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, means that we can discern and acquire wisdom - Psalm 111:10
 - Buy truth and hold on to it, means that we are responsible for discerning, acquiring, and holding on to truth - Prov. 23:23
 - Understand God's will, means that we can discern it for ourselves - Eph. 5:15-17
 - Work out your salvation, means that we can discern it, reason through it, and apply it - Phil. 2:12

God Wants Us To Use Our Minds

- God wants us to work, even though we get our food from Him - 2Thes. 3:10; Matt. 6:11
- God wants us to think for ourselves, even though He has given us all we need to know
 - Deut. 29:29 - “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”
 - Isa. 1:18 - “Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”