

# MYTH 1: YOU HAVE TO KNOW A LOT TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN

Select Passages • November 11, 2007 • Pastor Mike Newman

November 11, 2007 .....“MYTH 1: You have to know a lot to be a good Christian”  
November 18, 2007 .....“MYTH 2: God promises an easier life when you become a Christian”  
November 25, 2007 .....“MYTH 3: Good Christians don’t struggle with temptation and sin”  
December 2, 2007 .....“MYTH 4: What I do doesn’t matter”



**Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT)** <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

**1 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup>Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that “we all have knowledge” about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn’t really know very much. <sup>3</sup>But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

**Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)** <sup>25</sup>One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>The man answered, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” <sup>28</sup>“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!” <sup>29</sup>The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. <sup>31</sup>“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. <sup>32</sup>A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. <sup>34</sup>Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ <sup>36</sup>“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. <sup>37</sup>The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

**1 Corinthians 1:20-31 (NLT)** <sup>20</sup>So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. <sup>21</sup>Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to

## Are the following fact or fiction?

- God helps those who help themselves.
- Money is the root of all evil.
- The three wise men visited Jesus at the stable after His birth.
  
- You have to know a lot to be a good Christian.

### Five Biblical Principles:

- 1) The Bible teaches that a “good Christian” is someone who \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ See Matthew 22:37-39, 1 Corinthians 8:1-3, and Luke 10:25-37

*You can love God and others  
without a great deal of knowledge.*

- 2) God intentionally does not connect \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to living the Christian life so that no  
one can take credit for their relationship with Him.
- ✓ See 1 Corinthians 1:20–31 and Ephesians 2:8-9

- 3) A lot of knowledge does not mean that a person will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and be a “good Christian.”

- 4) God is more concerned with \_\_\_\_\_ with  
what you know than He is about how much you know.
- ✓ See James 1:22-25, James 2:14-20, and James 3:13



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save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. <sup>23</sup>So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. <sup>24</sup>But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. <sup>26</sup>Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. <sup>27</sup>Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup>God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. <sup>29</sup>As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup>God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup>Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

**James 1:22-25 (NLT)** <sup>22</sup>But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup>You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup>But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

**James 2:14-20 (NLT)** <sup>14</sup>What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? <sup>15</sup>Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, <sup>16</sup>and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well!"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? <sup>17</sup>So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. <sup>18</sup>Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." <sup>19</sup>You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. <sup>20</sup>How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

**James 3:13 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup>If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

***You don't have to know a lot to be a "good Christian."  
Being a "good Christian" is more about what you do  
than it is about what you know!***

5) We should work \_\_\_\_\_ to grow in our knowledge of the teachings of the Bible.

✓ See 2 Peter 1:3-8, Philippians 1:9-11, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

***Learning more and getting more knowledge about the Christian life is not the ultimate goal. Instead, it is simply one important thing we should do in our quest to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbor as ourselves (be a good Christian).***

**2 Peter 1:3-8 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup>By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup>And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. <sup>5</sup>In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. <sup>8</sup>The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 1:9-11 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup>I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup>For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup>May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NLT)** <sup>15</sup>You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup>God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

## How to Begin a Relationship with Jesus

**Believe** that Jesus is who He said He was, that He came and died on the cross, and that He arose from the dead three days later.

**Acknowledge** your sins and ask God to forgive you.

**Submit** yourself to follow God's teachings for life.

**Express** your desire to have this kind of relationship to God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the elders or pastors following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office (717-762-7147) to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website by clicking on the "Beginning Your Journey" link.

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