

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. ... Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ‘How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.’” Proverbs 1:7, 20-23.

Dear Christian friends:

June in our culture is the final month of the school year. It is the rush to summarize and evaluate the year. Traditionally it is the time in which students are assessed on their level of competence for the knowledge they gained. Exams are written; judgments are made on the year’s progress in skill; determinations are made for the next year placements. Graduations will be occurring for those ending High School. Provincial diplomas will be granted to those who have attained a certain degree of success. There is a measurement of growth.

This spring, as tomato seeds were sown in mid-March for the Sunday School children, I watched and waited. The germination was a difficult, slow process. Even the growth of those new seedlings was much slower this year. Numerous seedlings simply died out. The survivors struggled on. Now with warmer outdoor temperatures and more natural growing conditions those stragglers are perking up and gaining lost weeks of growth and vigor.

Our Christian faith is a life-long learning process of growth. Knowledge is an attribute granted by God for everyone to grow into. Wisdom is a gift created by God and bestowed upon some people. Our scriptures portray Knowledge and Wisdom as a person. She acts as a mentor, guide and seer for us. Knowledge calls to everyone to pay heed. Truly the person who receives knowledge gains wisdom. St. Peter urged the early Christians, “grow in the grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18.) I like that scripture exhortation. It always reminds me that I have not arrived at my graduation day until I draw my last breath! I can and am always learning more about the wonder of God and Christ Jesus. I constantly am being encouraged and counselled to make Him **LORD**.

One gift of knowledge that God has granted us is the beauty of our scriptures. The Bible still is the number one selling book in the world. It is more wonderful when the Bible is actually read! A Bible with dog-eared pages is a pastor’s delight to see. A personal bible with writings in the margins, and verses hi-lighted is a treasury well used and inexhaustible in wisdom. The Bible is only one tool that we can use to help us grow in the knowledge and grace of our LORD Jesus Christ.

Regular worship and constant participation in Holy Communion also are means to gain understanding and to deepen our relationship with God. When we gather with God’s people to sing, pray, study and learn together we are held and loved in a deep communion. Those bonds of relationship sustain us when we face the darkest moments in life.

June may end the cyclical school year, but God’s relationship with us is a constant adventure filled with wonder, awe, correction, and steadfastness. June is also a time for rapid growth in nature. This is our season. Grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ as **LORD**!

In Christ forever,
Pastor Kevin.