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## What is most important to you?

What is most important to you? What do you value the most?

There are more options *than you can shake a stick at*.

A Gallup study done last year asked respondents to choose up to three values that were most important to them. The top five chosen were:

- Family, 49%
- Freedom, 30%
- Health, 27%
- Integrity, 27%
- Faith, 26%



Interestingly, wealth ranked #13 at 7%.

Some investors have been following and investing in gold, which has skyrocketed in value. As the year 2000 opened it was trading at \$289 a Tary Ounce. Ten years ago, 2016, it began at \$1,075. Last year, 2025, it started at \$2,624, and it began this year at \$4,321. *That's valuable!*

For Christians, God should top our list, should be most important to us.

To help gain some perspective, think for a moment about gold in the overall scheme of things. As valuable as gold is, it and wealth is far from the most important thing. Remember Jesus' words,

“ For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul?  
Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

Proverbs 16:16 tells us,

“How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.”

Let's briefly review three related terms.

- Knowledge. One dictionary defines it as the information, understanding and skills that you gain through education or experience. Some people who study this area tell us that up until

1900 knowledge or information was doubling every hundred years. In 1950 it was doubling every 25 years and today it doubles every 12 hours.

- Understanding. Dictionaries tell us that one of the main meanings is to be able to comprehend, to grasp the meaning of information or knowledge. Understanding involves seeing how the various facts fit together, ordering them, and seeing how things work.
- Wisdom. One dictionary says that wisdom is the ability to use your experience and knowledge in order to make sensible decisions or judgments. Generally, it means applying the knowledge and understanding you have correctly as you make decision. True wisdom is seeing things as God does and acting accordingly.

God is the source of all true knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Theologian Arthur Holmes was right on when he said “All truth is God’s truth, wherever and however it be found.” Proverbs chapter 2 tells us, “For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (6). Then we recall Jesus’ declaration, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

God provides us with knowledge, understanding and wisdom. Our current Sunday sermon series is in the book of James. We know the passage,

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (1:5-8).

Taking in God’s Word, seeking and relying on God to give understanding and wisdom is essential for every Christian.

Question: Is God’s wisdom more valuable to you than gold? What is most important to you?

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