

### Getting the *Hard-Earned* Knowledge

There’s a difference between knowing something and *knowing something*.

What might have inspired David to write this?

*Let me ask a question to the church: how many of you have ever been in a disunified church setting? A disunified family setting? A disunified workplace?*

### Good and Pleasant

#### Good

*“While philosophy often sees ‘the good’ as an abstract ideal or moral norm, the Bible overwhelmingly presents goodness as a practical experienced reality.” – Eerdman’s Bible Dictionary*

Good as an experienced reality: good fruit (Gen. 2:9), good grain (Gen. 41:5), hospitality (Gen. 26:9), prosperity (Hos. 10:1), old age (Gen. 15:15), reputation (Isa. 56:5), trustworthiness (1 Sam 29:9). It is the delight in beauty (Gen. 24:16), sweetness (Jer. 6:20), fragrance (Songs 1:3), and musical ability (1 Sam 16:17).

#### Pleasant

*Delightful: of words, of wealth, of acts, of earthly prosperity, of spiritual delights, of physical beauty*

#### Ascending to Zion

*A song of ascents – this is about unity in worship and God, seeking him together and enjoying the journey and destination.*

### Two Pictures of the Goodness

#### Oil and Dew

Oil on the beard (Ex. 30:22-31) – Aaron and his son’s consecration as priests

Dew from Mt. Hermon – The means by which desert Israel was often watered (1 Kgs. 17:1, Mic. 5:7, which produces abundant fertility (Gen. 27:8).

#### Why these two pictures?

*At the least: oil and dew were known to every Israelite as good and pleasant experiences, and they simply reinforce the initial point.*

*But is there more?*

Aaron’s consecration → A call to holy purpose

Dew on the ground → God’s gift of fruitfulness

*Might it be that David uses these images also to point towards the power of unity to advance God’s holy purpose, to “bear fruit?”*

### Why we have to all work together for unity

Ephesians 4:3 “...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Unity is a gift → God has given it

Unity is a call → We have to maintain it (Nadab and Abihu)

### **Creating Unity**

Jason Rogers – Hebrews 10:25 “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Patty Vandever – Matthew 5:23-24 “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Mark Swirsky (and Cheatham) – Philippians 2:4-5 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”

Mike Cheatham – Romans 15:1 “Bear with the weaknesses of others”

Mario Guel and Jim Loar – 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”

### **Application: Work for unity. Enjoy the unity!**

*“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” — G.K. Chesterton*

### **Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. Reflect on a time where there was disunity in your church, family, work, or other community in your life. Why was that experience so difficult?
2. Why is unity so good and pleasant? How have you enjoyed the unity you have with other believers?
3. Is there any way that you need to repent because you are hurting unity? Any way that you need to obey to create unity?
4. How does unity in Christ set us apart for God’s holy purpose, like Aaron’s anointing?