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Romans 11:33

# INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Ashland Church of Christ 2008



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## Balance — Why Do We Need It? Balance is the Buzzword These Days

Text: Ephesians 4:7-16

**Key Text:** Ephesians 4:14, "...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting..."

### Introduction:

- 1) Balance is a popular concept in many circles today.
- 2) Balancing the practice of religion with other aspects of life is not the idea that we want to notice today:
  - a) Luke 14:26.
  - b) Matthew 22:37.
  - c) Matthew 16:24.
- 3) In the sense that God wants first place and that He wants us to totally give our lives to Him, Christianity is extreme.
- 4) However, certain doctrines of men that may start with a biblical foundation end in extremism and are thereby false.
- 5) How do we distinguish between what is of God and what is of men?

### I. The standard.

A. The author (Hebrews 12:1-2).

B. The attributes.

1. His immutability – Hebrews 6:17.
2. His love – John 3:16.

**C. The approach.**

1. Meditation – Psalm 119:15.
2. Look to the word – Psalm 119:81.
3. Live by it – Psalm 119:104.

**D. The application.**

1. The serenity prayer.
2. James 1:22.
3. Romans 2:13.

**E. The assignment.**

1. To study – 2Timothy 2:15.
2. To be noble – Acts 17:11.
3. To stay close to God – Matthew 11:28-30.

**II. The system.**

A. The precedent (Acts 2:14-36).

B. The predicament – not us, but God.

C. The priority (Luke 22:42).

D. The procedure: From God's revelation to man's reasoning (Matthew 12:1-8).

E. The possibility: We may never know God's position on certain subjects (Deuteronomy 29:29).

**III. The sacrifice.**

A. The command.

1. Luke 22:42.
2. Romans 3:4.
3. The way of man is not in himself:
  - a. Proverbs 3:5-6.
  - b. Jeremiah 10:23.

B. The compliance.

1. John 21:15-19.
2. Luke 9:23.

C. The condition (all or nothing – Luke 14:33).

D. The caution (Luke 14:28; 2Peter 2:21).

E. The consequence (John 8:31-32).