

THEME 17 - VIRTUES OF LEARNING RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

فَضْلُ الْعِلْمِ الشَّرْعِيِّ

Learning objectives:

- To understand that the desire to learn is a special favour from Allah.
- To learn that religious knowledge makes us better people.
- To learn the value and status of people of knowledge.

In this theme, you will learn:

Seeking religious knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, because knowledge helps us to do good deeds. Those who seek knowledge will become pious and draw closer to Allah. Knowledge helps us to appreciate Allah's creation, attributes and qualities.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا﴾ [طه: 144]. وقال تَعَالَى: ﴿يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ﴾ [المجادلة: 11].
وقال تَعَالَى: ﴿إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ﴾ [فاطر: 28].

Allah ﷻ says: “And say: My Lord, increase my knowledge” (20:114). Allah ﷻ says: “Allah will raise the ranks of the believers among you, particularly those who have knowledge” (58:11).

Allah ﷻ says: “Among His servants only the knowledgeable fear Allah” (35:28).

[1] عن معاوية قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ: «مَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهُهُ فِي الدِّينِ» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

1. Mu’awiyah ؓ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “When Allah wants to treat someone well, He motivates him to understand Islam.”

[2] عن سهل بن سعد أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ قَالَ لِعَلِيِّ: «فَوَاللَّهِ لَأَنْ يَهْدِيَ اللَّهُ بِكَ رَجُلًا وَاحِدًا خَيْرٌ لَكَ مِنْ حُمْرِ النَّعَمِ» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. Sahl bin Sa’d ؓ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said to Ali ؓ, “By Allah, if a single person is guided because of your efforts this is better for you than giving in charity a whole herd of red camels.”

COMMENTARY: The red camel was an expensive animal, a status symbol like an expensive car.

[3] عن عبد الله بن عمرو بن العاص : أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ قَالَ: «بَلِّغُوا عَنِّي وَلَوْ آيَةً، وَحَدِّثُوا عَن بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَا حَرَجَ، وَمَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَيَّ مُتَعَمِّدًا فَلْيَتَّبِعُوا مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ» رواه البخاري.

3. ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amr bin Al-’As ؓ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “Deliver the message even if it is a single verse, tell stories about Bani Israel there is no restriction, but remember that anyone who

deliberately makes up a lie about me let him know his place is in hell.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith teaches us a number of important lessons. First, it teaches us that it is our duty to convey the message of Islam to others. This is a responsibility that all Muslims share, regardless of their level of knowledge or understanding. Second, it teaches us that we should be careful about what we say about the Prophet. We should never fabricate lies about him, as this would be a serious sin. Third, it teaches us that the stories of the Children of Israel can be a valuable source of knowledge and inspiration for Muslims.

[4] عن أبي هريرة أن رسول الله قال: «وَمَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقاً يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْماً، سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقاً إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ» رواه مسلم.

4. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Allah makes the way to Paradise easy for the seeker of knowledge.”

[5] عن أبي هريرة قال: قال رسول الله: «إِذَا مَاتَ ابْنُ آدَمَ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثٍ: صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ، أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ، أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُوهُ» رواه مسلم.

5. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “When a man dies, his deeds stop except for three things: Endowment charity, beneficial knowledge, or a pious child who prays for him.”

[6] أبي هريرة قال: سمعت رسول الله يقول: «الدُّنْيَا مَلْعُونَةٌ، مَلْعُونٌ مَا فِيهَا، إِلَّا ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى، وَمَا وَالَاهُ، وَعَالِمًا، أَوْ مُتَعَلِّمًا» رواه الترمذي.

6. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger ﷺ said; “The world and all that it contains is cursed, except Divine remembrance, His obedience, a scholar and the seeker of religious knowledge.”

Activities:

- Share the hadiths that you have learnt in this theme with your friends and siblings.
- Research the personalities of Muslim scholars like Imam Abu Hanifah, Al-Khwarizmi, Ibn Sina, Al Ghazali - who have had religious knowledge and worldly knowledge.
- Design a poster showing the importance of seeking knowledge.

In this theme you have learnt:

- When Allah wants to be good to someone, He gives him the understanding of Islam.
- When a man dies, his deeds come to an end except for three things: Endowment charity (Sadaqah Jariyah), beneficial knowledge and a pious child.
- Allah will raise up by many degrees those who believe and those who have knowledge.
- We don't discriminate against any religion or its followers.