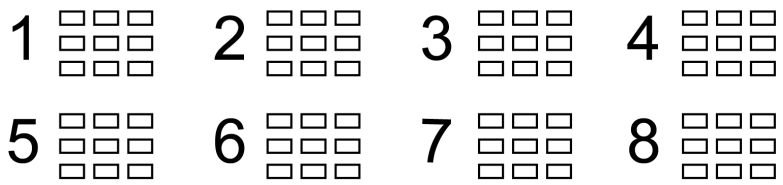
MULTIPLICATION:
FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPT

We often need to add the same numbers over and over again. For instance, if we made $9 dollars an hour and wanted to find out how much we would make in 8 hours, we would have to add $9 eight times—$9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9.

Imagine that every day you had to do the same tedious task over and over again. You would look for a faster way to get the task done, wouldn't you?

Multiplication is a faster way of looking at repeated additions. Rather than looking at $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 as addition, we could think of it in terms of taking $9 eight times. It is helpful to think of this as 8 groups of $9.



Rather than writing $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9, we could write 8 x $9 or 8($9) or 8 • $9. These are all agreed upon shortcuts to represent 8 groups of $9, or $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9. When we view repeated additions in terms of how many times we are adding the number (in this case, 8 times), we call it multiplication. Just as there have been many symbols for addition and subtraction, there have been many symbols for multiplication.

Ready for the amazing part of multiplication? $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9 + $9, or 8 x $9, *consistently* equals 72! Quantities combine so consistently we can memorize how they will multiply!

Why do quantities combine so consistently? As we have seen in the last few chapters, quantities operate consistently because Jesus upholds them consistently by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). Our very ability to use multiplication rests on God's power!

To better understand this important truth, let us explore together the multiplication table and the properties of multiplication. Both of these aspects of multiplication help us clearly see multiplication's reliance upon God.

Multiplication Table

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36
5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72
9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81