

INTRODUCTION

Question: What does it mean to have eternal life?

This is eternal life...that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ (John 17:3)

- Do you know God? Essential to your having assurance that you are right with God, that your sins are forgiven, that you have real hope of peace with God and eternal life is that you know God.

I. HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I KNOW GOD?

A. You will know certain things about God

- You cannot know anyone or anything with out know what they are like, facts about them.
- There are certain things you already know through general revelation. For most, there is even more than that.

B. It is more than your knowing about God

- Many examples of those who had knowledge of God and yet did not have eternal life (Bible and Church history).
- You can even have an interest in deeper theological knowledge and not know God.

C. It is your both knowing about God and knowing God - Romans 1:20-21/Galatians 4:8

- Illustration: reading biographies of someone great vs. living in that person's presence, speaking to and with them.
- Growing not only in facts, but in a real relationship with God.

II. HOW CAN I INCREASE IN KNOWING GOD?

A. You must recognize that this is dependent on God's grace – John 17:3

- You are dependent on God's self-disclosure through Jesus Christ (Luke 10:22).
- You are dependent on God's Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 2:1).
- You won't find it through the study of philosophy (1Corinthians 1:21), but only through Jesus Christ.

B. You must recognize that knowing God is dependent on using the means of grace - 2Peter 3:18

- We are commanded to actively grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ – Not passive.
- One of our weaknesses in the “information age” is equating knowing God with getting more information.
- Quote from Packer's Knowing God, p.21.
- We have lost the ability of “adoring silence” (Tozer), majesty, awe, reverence, and fear.
- The biblical way is prayer (esp. private) and meditation on God's Word. Communion (communication) with God.
- Quote from Packer's Knowing God, p.23).
- The truth can go into your mind to be stored as information, but is it penetrating your will and emotions?
- As you do so, those truths will transform your thinking and your behavior as you learn to apply it to the circumstances of your life. Rebuke, comfort, trust, hope, conviction, peace, sorrow, repentance.

Conclusion

- **Do you know God?** If so, this will be your glory (Jeremiah 9:23-24).
- While the cry of the true follower of Christ will always be “we have not know thee as we ought”, there will also be the actual witness of one's own life of the pursuit of the knowledge of God.
- **Are you increasing in the knowledge of God by the means He has appointed?**
- Are you willing to make the sacrifice in the busyness of life to do so? (Philippians 3:8, 10).
- How can you take up your cross when you won't even take up your Bible. This is what concerns us as pastors.
- **If your honest answer is “no”, then what can you do?**
- The answer is the same, to pray and meditate on God's Word, pleading with God to help you by His Spirit to know Him through Jesus Christ. You will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

Recommended Reading: J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.