

BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: KNOWING THE TRIUNE GOD

Intro: - The knowledge of God is summarized in the Apostle's Creed, the 'skeleton of the Christian faith.

-Lord's Day 8 brings us to consider, not the first article of the Apostle's Creed, but an overview of our faith.

-Faith begins with a confession of God. But how can we know God to confess him? We can because God reveals himself to us.

I. THIS KNOWLEDGE IS OF GOD BY HIS SPIRIT.

- A. Negatively: that we know God does not mean that we comprehend him.
 - 1. This is the awesome truth that God is incomprehensibly great and infinite!
 - 2. God is God, and we are finite, temporal creatures.
 - 3. God asks, "To whom will ye liken me or compare me (Ps. 89:6, Isa. 40:18, Isa.46:5)?"
 - 4. We only understand in a limited sense the things of God.
 - 5. Thus our confession of God is a confession of faith. We believe in God....
- B. Faith is not a blind faith; the activity of believing is a sure knowledge of what God reveals to us of himself.
 - 1. The atheist and agnostic say that knowledge of God is impossible.
 - 2. The existence of God can never be proved by reasoning. Men have tried by cosmological, ontological arguments.
 - 3. We can know God because he has revealed himself in a language that we can understand.
 - 4. We can know God because we are refashioned in the image of God.
 - 5. We can know God because his Spirit applies this revelation to mind and heart (I Cor. 2:10-16).
- C. Of God, we may know:
 - 1. That God is self-existent, a spiritual being, a personal being, and being of infinite perfections.
 - 2. The Cat. Instructor in this Lord's Day emphasizes the doctrine of the Trinity.
 - 3. The word 'trinity' comes from 'tri' (three) and 'unity' (one). It implies that God is three persons in one being.
 - 4. There is one divine nature: mind, will, heart, and life. The three persons are perfectly one in virtues and attributes.
 - 5. There is a distinction in the three persons. "I" These are not three different modes of God but the Father, Son, and Spirit.
 - 6. Scriptural proof:
- D. The life that God lives within himself.
 - 1. There is fervent love, mutual knowledge, perfect cooperation, and inexpressible joy.
 - 2. There is intimate friendship and fellowship. Oh the beautiful life of God.
 - 3. The covenant of grace that God establishes with us in Christ has its source in God himself and his own life!

II. THIS KNOWLEDGE GIVES A PATTERN.

- A. To reveal that life outside of himself, God created.
 - 1. Originally God revealed his covenant life to Adam and Eve in the Garden when they could walk and talk with God.
 - 2. That covenant fellowship was disrupted by the fall of Adam and Eve.
 - 3. But God sought them out in the garden while they were hiding, reestablishing the covenant in the promise.
 - 4. Christ is the reason that we can have fellowship with God, blotting out our sin, and giving us his perfect righteousness.
- B. The life and existence of God is the pattern for our life as children of God **with him**.
 - 1. We had been enemies, but now are we friends (John 15:13-15, Ps. 25:14)!
 - 2. This is what moves the child of God in all his life. Friends of God are at enmity with the world.
 - 3. Our Christian life is one of walking with God, talking with God, saying, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee..."
 - 4. "I will bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name..."
 - 5. Is your life with God this of fervent love, mutual knowledge, perfect cooperation, and inexpressible joy?
- C. The life and existence of God is the pattern for our life as children of God **with one another**.
 - 1. In our marriages, we may reflect friendship, fervent love, knowledge, cooperation, and joy.
 - 2. In our Christian homes, sitting as family around the table, our children as olive plants, thriving together.
 - 3. In God's church, seeing one another as friends of God and our friends, enjoying companionship and working together.
 - 4. Love, knowledge, cooperation, and joy in God's saints everywhere, the universal church of Christ.

III. THIS KNOWLEDGE IS GOOD.

- A. To know God is the greatest good.
 - 1. We delight in knowing God as our own God (Ps. 63:1).
 - 2. We delight in tracing God's lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness (Jer. 9:23,24).
 - 3. To know God and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent is to have eternal life (John 17:3).
 - 4. "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever (Westminster Catechism)."
- B. In what way is knowing God the greatest good?
 - 1. It removes all pride. Our life and all that we are is in our God.
 - 2. It overcomes our fears (Ps. 63:6-9).
 - 3. It cleanses us from evil (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14).
 - 4. It eliminates a life of utter dissatisfaction (Ps. 63:5).
- C. We enjoy our great salvation.
 - 1. God has chosen and adopts us into his family.
 - 2. God gives us a life patterned after his life.
 - 3. We can enjoy that fellowship and friendship in all of our relationships.
 - 4. We will enjoy perfect fellowship in the new heavens and earth.