

The Knowledge of God

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Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

I. That we have a true and thorough knowledge of God is one of God's greatest desires.

A. The Scripture says that He desires this more than burnt offerings.

Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

B. The lack of true knowledge of God is one of the basic reasons for the judgement of God upon a people.

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

C. The knowledge of God is the means of multiplying grace and peace to ourselves.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

1. The more true knowledge we have about God, the more grace and peace we will experience.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

D. We will have no real knowledge of God without seeking for it ourselves.

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

1. We must draw nigh to God if we desire to know him.

2. We must search the Scriptures because they are the only means we have of knowing the truth about God.

3. We must get our knowledge of God first hand.

a) Others may inspire or encourage us to seek after the knowledge of God, but we cannot ever truly know God by simply going on what we hear from other people.

E. We must not use ourselves and our ways, our understanding of things, our feelings, etc. as some kind of measure to discern what God is like.

1. We must not bring him down to our level, but look to rise to him.

2. We must always remember who He is and who we are.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

II. Knowing God is a life-long adventure - not a short crash course.

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

- A. We can have as little or as much of the knowledge of God as we want - it is inexhaustible.
- B. We can live in the shallows and barely get our feet wet or we can sail into the depths where few others go.
- C. It should be a priority in our life to seek and to know the Lord.

III. Knowing God will make us more like him.

- A. The more we know about God the more we will abandon *our* views, opinions, ways, and general character for his.
- B. It is an obvious fact that we adapt from those around us good and bad traits very easily and quickly.
- C. The more we are around someone, the more we are influenced by them.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- D. The goal of our life should be to be made more and more like God.

Psalms 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

- E. If we are going to become like him we must spend time in his presence.
- F. If we are going to become more like him we must know more about him.
- G. If we are going to know more about him we must study his word and pay attention to his working in our life.
- H. No amount of studying will help an unconverted person to know God because he is dead in sins and cannot understand the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- I. When a heart is surrendered to God, realizing its sinful state and trusting in the Atonement Christ made for the sin of mankind, he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for that person to understand and know God from that point.
- J. So the first step in knowing God is salvation by repentance and faith in Christ.
- K. You must be surrendered to God's will in order to understand anything about God.

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

