

April 10, 2011
"Knowing God and Doing His Will"
Deuteronomy 6:4-7

WSC 3 What do the Scriptures principally teach? A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man. (WSC 1:3 WCS)

If you remember question 2 from the catechism about "what rule..." and its answer "the Word of God" you will realize question 3 could easily be rephrased, what does God principally teach? Ultimately, what does God want me to KNOW, FOCUS ON, CONCENTRATE ON, BELIEVE, TEACH MY CHILDREN, TALK ABOUT WITH MY FRIENDS, EMPHASIZE IN MY LIFE, etc ...

1. Our Credenda, our creed, our faith, our belief, is all about God (Theology) –

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6 NKJ)

1. This is the main thing Scripture teaches, it should be the MAIN thing we seek to know and teach as well –

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!⁵ "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart."⁷ "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7 NKJ)

2. The knowledge of God, more than other kinds of knowledge is what we should "glory" in, make our life –

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.-- (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

3. Fighting against or neglecting such knowledge / faith works to our great detriment –

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (Romans 1:28 NKJ) ~ see Romans 1:28-32

How dreadful it is that we as a nation have outlawed the Bible and prayer from our public schools, treating that MOST ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE as not needed and sometimes even as dangerous. This is the exact opposite of what we once were -

Noah Webster, first author of the Webster's Dictionary and known as "The Father of American Scholarship and Education" wrote the following –
"Almost all the civil liberty now enjoyed in the world owes its origin to the principles of the Christian religion. It is the sincere desire of the writer that our citizens should early understand that the genuine source of correct republican principles is the Bible, particularly the New Testament or the Christian religion. The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles, which enjoins humility, piety, and benevolence; which acknowledges in every person a brother, or a sister, and a citizen with equal rights. This is genuine Christianity, and to this we owe our free constitutions of government. The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all of our civil constitutions and laws ... All miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."
From his public school textbook "History of the United States" published in 1832

When people reject the knowledge of God, literally all Hell (in the form of satanic immorality) breaks loose –

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. (Psalm 14:1 NKJ)

50 million abortions / now many are paid for with our tax dollars -

¹³ "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's? ¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs on the ground, And warms them in the dust; ¹⁵ She forgets that a foot may crush them, Or that a wild beast may break them. ¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern, ¹⁷ Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding. (Job 39:13-17 NKJ)

50% of 17 year olds in one major U.S. city could not identify the Pacific Ocean on a map --- guess which one, it is on the map pictured on the front of this bulletin.

"It may be true that Johnny can't read, but at least 12 years of public schooling has divested his mind of all of that religious superstition with which he entered school." *Paul Blanshard*

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27 NKJ) *Yet, today we have so called scholars who cannot figure out how many genders there are!*

It has been said by someone that "the proper study of mankind is man." I will not oppose the idea, but I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God's elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.

There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can compass and grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-content, and go our way with the thought, "Behold I am wise." But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumb line cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought that vain man would be wise, but he is like a wild ass's colt; and with solemn exclamation, "I am but of yesterday, and know nothing." No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind, than thoughts of God....

But while the subject *humbles* the mind, it also expands it. He, who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe.... The most excellent study for expanding the soul is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity. CH Spurgeon

Yet, even better "Knowing God" = eternal life - "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

II. Our Agenda, what we are commanded by God to do, how we are to live (Religion) –

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22 NKJ)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:6 NKJ)

He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8 NKJ)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJ)

Do all things without complaining and disputing,¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (Philippians 2:14-15 NKJ)

"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. (Daniel 11:32 NKJ)

NUN. Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105 NKJ)

- 1. We deceive ourselves if we think Christianity is for our mind but not our lives – James 1:22; 1 John 2:6*
- 2. God has made it clear in His Word how we should live – Micah 6:8*
- 3. It is by God's grace and according to His preparation, that each of us do "good works" – Ephesians 2:8-10*
- 4. The darkness (sinful conduct) of most in the world makes us "shine" in comparison – Philippians 2:14-15*
- 5. We are called to go against the flow – Daniel 11:32*
- 6. God will direct us – Psalm 119:105*