

Subject: *Knowing the One True God*

Scripture: *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

A. W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” Tozer also said this about the Church: “The gravest question before the Church is always God Himself. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech.”

The most important thing about a person is knowing the one true God. The most important thing about a church is knowing the one true God and making Him known.

In this message we are going to look at what the Bible teaches about God. This is without question the most important doctrine of our church.

1. Knowing the one true God is our great need

God says to the prophet Jeremiah: “Don’t let a wise man boast about his wisdom. Don’t let a mighty man boast about his power. Don’t let a rich man boast about his riches. If a man boasts, let him boast in this—that he understands and knows me, the one true God.”

Knowing the one true God is the greatest need. It is important that we understand the context of Jeremiah 9. God has warned his people Israel of coming judgment. This was a message that upset Jeremiah the prophet (Jer. 9:1). The nation deserved God’s punishment (Jer. 9:2-3, 8-16). God is dealing with a sinful people who have the idea that they will somehow be able to escape God’s judgment. Some of them boast in their wisdom. Some boast in their physical power. Some boast in their riches as if they can buy their way out of trouble. But God says the only hope anyone has is to understand and know Him.

God’s judgment is sure to come, so you need to know Him and trust in Him. He is our biggest threat, and He is our only hope.

2. Knowing the one true God is our great challenge

There are so many wrong ideas about God in the world. We must know God as He truly is. One of my favorite stories about knowing God is the little girl who was at home with her mother one day, and the mother called out to see if she was alright and what she was doing. She said, “I’m drawing a picture of God.” Her mother said, “But honey, no one knows what God looks like.” She said, “They will when I get through.”

We must reject all false gods (see ***Jeremiah 10:1-16***).

We must not settle for a god of our own imagination. Jonathan Edwards said: “People may love a god of their own imagination, when they are far from loving such a God as reigns in heaven. Having formed in their minds such a God as suits them, and thinking God to be such a one as favors and agrees with them, they may like him very well when they are far from having the true God.”

There is the false god of the world, sometimes called “the man upstairs.”

There is the false god of the modern church, a god who is all love and no justice, all forgiveness and no holiness, a god of mercy without judgment, a god of patience who cares for you and understands you, but a god who will never punish you.

The only way to know the one true God is to read and study the Bible and find out what God is really like. Don't settle for a god you have made up in your mind.

3. Knowing the one true God is our great privilege

When we know God as He truly is, then it is our responsibility and privilege to worship and serve Him as He deserves, and then to make Him known.

We can know the one true God because He has revealed Himself in nature, in Scripture, and in Christ.

We know Him as the one and only God.

We know He is one God who exists in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We know He is eternal and self-existent. He is the great I AM.

We know He is infinite. He cannot be limited in terms of time or space or any other way.

We know He is pure, uncreated Spirit, and cannot be reduced to a physical image.

We know He is supreme (over all) and sovereign (in control of all).

We know He is unchangeable in His character, His will, and His word.

We know He is omnipresent (fully in all places at the same time).

We know He is omnipotent (has all power to do whatever He wants to do).

We know He is omniscient (has all knowledge and wisdom).

We know He is holy (separate from all creatures and from all sin).

We know He is righteous (always does what is right).

We know He is great (nothing can limit or hinder Him).

We know He is good and generous.

We know He is loving and kind.

We know He is gracious and merciful.

We know He is truthful (He cannot lie).

We know He is faithful (He follows through on His promises and His warnings).

We know He is patient.

We know He is full of wrath toward sin.

We know He is jealous (protects His character and His people).

We know all this about God because He has told us so in His Word. This is why we love Him. This is why we worship Him. This is why we serve Him. This is why we long to be with Him in heaven. This is why we want others to know Him.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*