

“Knowing Christ”

John 1: 31 and 33

Joh 1:31 **And I knew him not:** but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Joh 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

Joh 1:33 **And I knew him not:** but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Note 1,

This phrase repeated twice in verses 31 and 33

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Note 2,

This principle of not knowing Christ is universal.

1. The world did not know him!

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world **knew** him not.

2. The Pharisees or their messengers did not know him!

Joh 1:26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye **know** not;

3. Not even John the Baptist knew him! (They were cousins)

Joh 1:31 And I **knew** him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Joh 1:33 And I **knew** him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

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Note 3,

The knowledge of Christ and his power is often given, not to the great of this world but, to the lowly!

We see a wonderful illustration of this in chapter 2

Joh 2:9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and **knew** not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water **knew**;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

Compare:

Mat 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Mat 11:26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*.

Also:

1Co 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

1Co 1:20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

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Note 4,

This knowledge of Christ is a Saving Knowledge

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

Also –

Joh 10:4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they **know** his voice.

Joh 10:5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they **know** not the voice of strangers.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and **know** my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I **know** them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Also –

Joh 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Joh 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Joh 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

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Note 5,

There is great responsibility attending any knowledge we have of Christ.

Joh 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

With –

Joh 3:11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do **know**, and testify that we have seen; and **ye receive not our witness.**

The people saw through the wicked rejection of Christ by the Sanhedrin -

Read John 7: 25-31

Note 6,

Obedience to God is an inseparable part of Knowing Christ!

Joh 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.

Joh 13:17 (KJV) If ye **know** these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Joh 8:32 (KJV) And ye shall **know** the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

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Note 7,

Though our knowledge of him is defective and faulty. His knowledge of us is perfect!

Joh 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast *day*, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

Joh 2:24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*,

Joh 2:25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

We see this knowledge of Christ revealed in two ways in:

Joh 4:1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

Joh 4:2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)

Joh 4:3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.

Joh 4:4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

With –

Joh 4:31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

Joh 4:32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

Joh 4:33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him *ought* to eat?

Joh 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Joh 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Consider the sobering words of John 5 -

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

Joh 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

Also:

Read John 6: 60-71

Note 8,

Not only does Christ have unclouded knowledge of our state, he also claimed and possessed intimate knowledge of the Father.

Joh 7:28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

Joh 7:29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

Contrast verse 28 with:

Joh 8:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither **know** me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

The first is physical, the second spiritual.

Then later in chapter 8 our Lord once again affirms his knowledge of the father –

Joh 8:55 Yet ye have not known him; but I **know** him: and if I should say, I **know** him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I **know** him, and keep his saying.

Also in chapter 10 –

Joh 10:15 (KJV) As the Father knoweth me, even so **know** I the Father:.....

And –

Joh 10:38 (KJV) But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may **know**, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him.

And –

Joh 8:14 (KJV) Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, *yet* my record is true: for I **know** whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Joh 11:42 (KJV) And I **knew** that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

App –

1. Do You Know Christ in a Saving way?
2. Are you Humbled by this knowledge?
3. Is your knowledge of him mixed with an Evangelical obedience?
4. Does the fact that Christ knows your heart and your soul intimately, cause fear and gratitude?
5. Do we understand that the only way we can know the father is through Christ?

May God bless his word to our souls.

Amen.