

# Knowing God Better

## Set the Stage

-Psalm 46:10, *“Be still, and know that I am God”*

-Our theme for this semester is about how we can know God better.

-How we know someone will determine what we think of them, how we interact with them, how we respond, and what we will do for them.

-Difference between a stranger and your best friend.

## Read Ephesians 1:15-19

-The early church faced many hard times.

-Living under a cruel Roman government, persecuted for their faith, separated from loved ones, loss of jobs, homes, land. Lots of sickness and disease.

-Paul begins his letter to the Christians in Ephesus with a prayer.

-Paul's prayer is not for their circumstances to change, instead he prays for them to know God better.

-He doesn't pray for material things but rather spiritual.

-He reveals what the most important thing is that God could give them.

-*Why did he pray this way? What about knowing God better is more important than changing hard circumstances?*

-Without a deep, full understanding of God:

1. Good circumstances can lead to overconfidence and spiritual indifference. while...
2. Bad circumstances can lead us to becoming discouraged, disillusioned, and despair

-*“Knowing God better is what we must have above all else if we are to face life in any circumstance.”* Tim Keller

- Knowing God is the ultimate goal/achievement in life.
- What we know to be true about God is the most important thing about us.

## Take it to the Next Level

*In knowing God better, Paul prays that God will give them...*

### 1. Knowing God through a Relationship

#### A. Knowing God personally. (Salvation - John 17:3)

- We are all born separated from God because of sin in our lives.
- God is holy and sin is unholy. This separated us.
- Jesus Christ came and died on the cross to remove the separation and make a way back to God.
- Through Jesus Christ, you can know God personally.
- You can have a relationship with God!
- How? Calling on Jesus to forgive your sin.
- (Jesus goes so far as to call believers his friends.)

#### B. Knowing God increasingly (Sanctification - Phil. 3:10)

- God is pursuing you, it is up to you when & how you respond. (You have to pursue God.)
- God has pursued us by:
  - Creation, His Word, His Son, His love, Mercy, grace.
- As you grow in your Christian life, you will grow in your knowledge of God.
- Example of relationship**
  - Just as you learn about a new friend or boyfriend/girlfriend we learn about God.

1. You cannot expect to be where someone else is.

- Maturity in knowledge is not based on time or age.
- It's based on effort & intentionality on our part.
- It's based on how hard we pursue after God.

*“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jer. 29:13*

2. You cannot start where you want/expect to be.
  - This will cause frustration & feel like a failure.
  - Bite off more than we can chew or sustain.
  - You have to start where you are at and take steps toward where you want to be.

-*What ways can we get to know God?*

- We get to know him through experience.

### **C. Knowing God perfectly (Glorification - 1 Cor. 13:9-10)**

- One day we will know God fully and perfectly.

## **2. Knowing God through Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding**

### **A. The ability to see and understand God.**

- “Give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” (17)*

#### **1. Know God's calling**

- “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”*
- Eph. 4:4
- Hope in the Bible is not like:
  - I hope I get a new phone for Christmas or I hope I get an invite there.
  - Hope carries the idea of “assurance for the future.”
- As a believer, God has called you
  - Your life has a customized purpose that only you can fulfill.**

- Discovering and knowing your calling produces hope and peace in your life.
- Disobeying and running from your calling produces frustration, confusion, and steals our hope and peace.

**-The better we know God the better we can understand our true calling and fulfill it!**

## 2. Know God's riches

**-God deals with us on the basis of our future, not our past.**

*- "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: "*

- Some of you want to be rich,
- As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are a spiritually rich.
- Too often we live like spiritually poor people.
- Griping, complaining, no purpose, no hope.
- Many of you are living a spiritually poor life while living on a pile of spiritual riches.

**-The better we know God the better we can understand how rich we are in Jesus Christ**

## 3. Know God's power

- Our ability to use the wealth that God has provided to us.
- God has the power to flip, turn, change, twist, or alter anything in our lives and the world.
- We need God's power:
  - To pray and see answered prayer.

- To know how to live and actually do it.
- To defeat the enemies fighting against us.
- Satan, the world, lies,

**-The better we know God the better we can understand and use the power in our own lives.**

## **B. The ability to see things from God's perspective.**

-*"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened."* (18)

-*Do you struggle to understand life? Why things are as they are? Why God does what He does?*

-God sees things differently than we do.

-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."*

-We can misunderstand God's works, motives, goodness, love.

-Causes us to misunderstand the true character and nature of God. The result is a false god built in our minds.

-In return, we don't know the real God rather a false one we have created in our own minds.

## **C. The ability to understand yourself and others.**

-*Do you struggle to understand yourself? What about others around you? Why we do what we do?*

-Since we are made in the image of God, the greater we know God the greater we will know ourselves. The better we will understand others.

## Conclusion

-God wants you to know him. The greatest achievement in life is to grow in our knowledge of God. Make it an active pursuit of yours.

## Taking your next step

### *How can you know God better?*

-It is not mystical, it is tangible and experiential

#### 1. Learn about God through relationship.

-Pursue God, Go after Him, Seek Him.

-Focus on Him, spend time with Him, Talk about Him, Talk to him

-Do things for Him, worship Him, Be apart of what is important to Him - Church

#### 2. Learn about God from His Word.

-God wrote to you. Read and listen.

-There are many ways to learn from God through His Word.

-Read, Listen, meditate, think on it,

-Messages, podcasts, videos.

#### 3. Learn about God through life and trials.

-It is through the trials that we get to know God in deeper, closer ways. Ways we would have never been able to before.

Trials make us dependent on him, force us to seek him.

#### 4. Learn about God by being open and teachable.

-Know that you don't know it all. Ask Him to teach you and guide you.

-God resists the proud.

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