

## If We Know God

### INTRODUCTION:

1. David was a man who faced much opposition, persecution, trials, and tribulation in His life that in many ways, but not all, had nothing to do with David's heart or actions—they weren't his fault.
  - A. He faced enemies who rose against Him without cause (cite Psa. 7:1-6).
    - i. At a young age David was brought into King Saul's court and because He was extremely loyal to Saul and God, God blessed David's endeavors for Saul.
    - ii. Saul repaid him by being jealous and hating David and forcing David to become a fugitive *running for His life!*
  - B. He faced betrayal by some *closest* to Him (Psa. 41:9 – "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up *his* heel against me. But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them.").
  - C. In fact, some 34 times David speaks of those about him who came up "against him," while some 40+ times he speaks of how he and all people should *trust in God for His care and deliverance!*
    - i. What many might see as cause to question God, to become discouraged and give up on God, was cause for David to draw closer to God with even greater confidence in Him.
    - ii. David's *confident trust* in the Lord changed his life, bringing Him strength to stand and defeat lions and giants, declaring all the while the wonders of His God to all that would hear.
2. So, why do I bring up David? Because, my friends, **truly knowing God** changes our lives, causing us to view and live our lives differently than do others.
  - A. These are both *small* and *profound* changes to our daily walk on this earth!
  - B. With this in mind I would like to consider some practical ways that knowing God should affect our lives to help us see if we are truly taking full advantage of the wonderful blessings the Lord provides for His people.

### INTRODUCTION:

#### **I. If you know God, it will make you feel very differently about your life!**

- A. Have you ever noticed that knowing someone of importance or influence often makes one feel important or influential?
  1. The world takes great pride in *knowing* people of power, wealth, and influence because it helps them feel special about themselves, that they are somehow powerful and influential.
    - a. With the world this is often the case when that person of power is truly nothing more than an acquaintance!
    - b. So often that *important person* is known far more by the person who claims this knowledge as a badge of honor than is that person truly known by the important person!
  2. Now, you may think you know no one like this, but if you are a Christian, you know **God**.
    - a. All the things the world glories in are meaningless. Knowing God is what we should glory in (Jer. 9:23-24 – "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; <sup>24</sup> 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.").
    - b. More important is the fact that God chooses to know us! (1 Cor. 8:1-3 – "Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up**, but love edifies. <sup>2</sup> And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup> **But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.**").
      - i. Knowing those who possess great earthly wisdom, power, and wealth often puff people up.
      - ii. But, knowing God and having a relationship with Him that exists *because God wants to know you*, that is what makes life worth living, that makes us special on this earth!

## II. Knowing God means knowing the Creator.

- A. Have you pondered the meaning of God as the **Creator**?
1. Before there was human accomplishment, power, influence or wealth, there was God.
  2. His power is such that He simply spoke it all into existence (Hebrews 11:3 – “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the **word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”).
  3. He is the **source** of all that is, His **wealth** is all the creation, His **power** is His Lordship over the whole universe, His **influence** is found in any and all that is good in this world!
- B. And, the God of creation wants to know you and you to know Him, and that should be life-changing (Isa. 40:28-31 – “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, <sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”).

## III. Knowing God means you know the great Sustainer of the universe.

- A. The earth and all things were made through Christ and in Him all things are held together and sustained (Col. 1:16-17 – “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”).
1. God is the means by which everything we see and do not see is held together, caused to continue, caused to work in harmony for our good.
  2. Without God, all would cease! Yet, because of God all continues in wonderful splendor!
- B. Why should we worry about life and its provisions? We know God who made the universe and sustains it (Matthew 6:25-34 – “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not worth much more than they?** <sup>27</sup> And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, **will He not much more clothe you?** You of little faith! <sup>31</sup> Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ <sup>32</sup> For the **Gentiles eagerly seek all these things**; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> “So **do not worry about tomorrow**; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”).

## IV. To know God is to know the great Protector of His people.

- A. I know there is a lot of evil in this world—evil that seems to come closer to us day by day.
1. Satan wants us to focus on this evil, to believe evil has the upper hand in this world, to believe Satan’s evil more powerful than the good that God brings into this world!
  2. But that is not the case! For every evil that Satan does, the good God is doing in this world at that same time is infinitely greater and more powerful.
  3. Don’t get so focused on the specific incidences of evil that we forget who we know and what that means for us!
- B. Knowing God is the only true means of having a *good life* on this earth.
1. This is the only formula that provides any real assurance of real safety, confidence, peace, and happiness (1 Pet. 3:10-16 – “For “He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. <sup>11</sup> Let him turn away from evil

and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> **For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.**” <sup>13</sup> And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? <sup>14</sup> **But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”** <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”).

- a. Doing what God desires is our first and foremost means of being safe in this world.
  - b. Yet, God says that the righteous will suffer, and that the more righteous we seek to be, the more the world will hate us.
  - c. So, we need to be the most trusting, obedient, praying people we can be so that God’s eyes, ears, and protecting hand will be tuned to our lives!
2. For, again, we must remember that we know the Lord and as Psalm 9:9-10 says, “The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who **know Your name will put their trust in You**; for You, LORD, **have not forsaken those who seek You.**”).

#### V. To know God is the eternal Judge and Rewarder of mankind!

- A. Have you ever been privileged to have some insider information concerning an event that benefitted you in gaining the prize?
1. I know that insider information can be illegal in certain areas, but not in all.
  2. The truth is that I have been given such information, though I did not ask for it, that proved beneficial.
    - a. When we purchased our first house it was a foreclosure in which bids for the house were submitted blindly.
    - b. Yet, a friend one day just told me about this house and said that he had talked with someone at the bank and if we bid a certain amount, we would get the house!
    - c. We didn’t know how accurate the information was. But the amount was very low for the house, so we acted on it and got the house.
- B. Knowing God means that we know the **Judge** of the greatest event of all, the event of life itself, and the **Rewarder** of eternity in heavenly bliss for His followers!
1. We know God of whom it is said in Rom. 2:6-10 that He “will render to each one according to his deeds”: <sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, <sup>9</sup> tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.”
  2. He has given His people the insider information needed to set us free from the burdens of this frail, human existence of sin and death (John 8:31-32 – “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**” <sup>32</sup> **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”).
- C. What is even greater is that God, the Judge and Rewarder of all people in this life, wants and favors us to gain the prize.
1. God was willing to sacrifice His own Son to assure our success (John 3:16-17 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”).
  2. With God, our Judge and Rewarder, being willing to do so much to assure our success, how can we lose? (Rom. 8:31-34 – “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who

can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”).

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Live your life for God, looking to Him for life's goodness, security, and happiness.
  - A. For, true fear should be reserved for God, not the dangers of this life (Matt. 10:28-32 – “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. <sup>30</sup> But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”).
  - B. And, focusing our life on God allows us to approach the end of our days, though our days as God's soldiers may be like Paul's and full of *persecutions and trials among men*, with great confidence and expectation (2 Tim. 4:7-8 – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, **and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**”).
2. Do you want to change your life, to be different than those around you who strive and struggle with the meaningless things of this life that cannot save nor provide peace and safety?
  - A. Knowing Jesus and the salvation He provides through His grace applied to the sins of your soul is the answer—the **only** answer.
3. Knowing Jesus comes by...
  - A. Hearing and learning through the gospel that you might gain faith in Christ (John 6:44-45; Rom. 10:17).
  - B. Being willing to repent of your sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19)
  - C. Confessing your faith in Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10)
  - D. Being baptized into Him for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4).
4. Will you come to Jesus and find the real salvation, peace, and happiness that is only found in knowing God? Why not come today!