

KNOWING GOD

John 14:6-11

(All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

KNOWING GOD

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.' Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.'" (John 14:6-11)

KNOWING GOD

- 1. What does it mean to know God?
- 2. Two Greek words translated "Know"
 - a. *oikeios*: literally "belonging to a house or family, intimate, kindred; to become acquainted with, to understand, perceive, have knowledge of" (Thayer)
 - b. *ginoskos* "To learn, to come to know, to understand" (Thayer)

KNOWING GOD

- 3. It is important, because:
 - a. Those who **know God** have eternal life.

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."
(John 17:3)

KNOWING GOD

- 3. It is important, because:
 - b. Those who **do not know God** will have eternal punishment.

*"... the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution **to those who do not know God** and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power ..." (2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9)*

KNOWING GOD

- 4. To know God means to have knowledge of God and to have a relationship with Him.
- "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the **true knowledge of Him who called us** by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." (2 Peter 1:2-4)*

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- A. One can have knowledge about God, yet not know God.

- 1. Some had knowledge of God, but didn't understand and have fellowship with either the Father or the Son!

"So they were saying to Him, 'Where is Your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.'" **(John 8:19)**

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- A. One can have knowledge about God, yet not know God.

- 2. Apostles and saints were persecuted because the world didn't "know" the Father.

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me." **(John 15:18-21)**

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- A. One can have knowledge about God, yet not know God.

- 2. Apostles and saints were persecuted because the world didn't "know" the Father.

"These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me." **(John 16:1-3)**

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- A. One can have knowledge about God, yet not know God.

- 3. Saul of Tarsus had knowledge about God, but didn't "know" God while he was persecuting the church.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus." **(1 Timothy 1:12-14)**

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- B. Jesus came to earth to reveal God to man.

"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." **(John 1:18)**

- 1. To give man a clear manifestation of God.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." **(Colossians 1:15)**

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- B. Jesus came to earth to reveal God to man.

- 2. This is essential, for until one has a knowledge of God, he cannot "know" Him (enter a relationship with Him).

"... so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God ..." **(Colossians 1:10)**

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

■ C. When we know Christ, we know the Father.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.' Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'" (John 14:6-9)

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

■ C. When we know Christ, we know the Father.

- 1. Before we can know Christ (enter a relationship with Him), we must learn of Him.

"It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me." (John 6:45)

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- 2. Likewise, to have a relationship with the Father (know God), we must first learn about Him.

"And 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 seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

■ a. Through nature, we learn His divinity.

"... because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

(Romans 1:19-20)

"... and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." (Acts 14:17)

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

■ b. Through revelation we learn His will.

"And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)

I. KNOWING GOD MEANS HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

- 3. But, learning of God isn't all there is to knowing Him.

"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures." (Romans 1:21-23)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

■ A. When we obey God we know God.

"By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." (1 John 2:3-6)

"... dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." (2 Thessalonians 1:8)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

□1.– Keep His commandments

"By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments." (1 John 2:3)

□2.– Relationship formed – Master & servant

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.'" (John 14:23)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

□3.– Keep His word – Love of God in our lives.

"... but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him ..." (1 John 2:5)

□4.– In fellowship with God when we walk as Christ did.

"... the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." (1 John 2:6)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

■ B. When one knows God he accepts the apostles' teachings.

"We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error." (1 John 4:6)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

■ B. When one knows God he accepts the apostles' teachings.

□1. It is a contradiction to say we are pleasing God if we are rejecting the inspired message!

"The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me." (Luke 10:16)

"Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

■ B. When one knows God he accepts the apostles' teachings.

□2. The New Testament (the apostles' writings) instructs us how to walk (live) as Christ walked.

"... what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3)

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

■ C. To know God means to be in Christ.

*"And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and **we are in Him** who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." (1 John 5:20)*

II. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

□1. We are baptized into Christ through faith.

*"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ."
(Galatians 3:26-27)*

□2. One cannot know God and reject His Son Jesus Christ.

"Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also." (1 John 2:23)

III. IN THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WE SHOULD KNOW THAT:

■ A. God knows us.

□1. God is acquainted with **everything** about us (our actions, thoughts, words).

*"O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all."
(Psalms 139:1-4)*

III. IN THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WE SHOULD KNOW THAT:

■ A. God knows us.

□2. In Christ, He recognizes us as His children.

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." (1 John 3:1)

"... so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:5)

III. IN THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WE SHOULD KNOW THAT:

■ B. God loves us.

"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:9-10)

III. IN THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WE SHOULD KNOW THAT:

■ B. God loves us.

□1. Therefore, we must love one another in the same way to know God!

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."
(1 John 4:7-8)*



CONCLUSION

- 1. Do you know God? Perhaps you know **about** God, but do not really **know** Him.
- 2. Change that right now by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ in faith and allowing God to come into your life.



HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

- Hear the word of God.
 - *"... receive the word implanted which is able to save your souls."* (**James 1:21**)
- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - *"... He who believes in the Son has eternal life ..."* (**John 3:36**)
- Repent of your sins.
 - *"... repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away ..."* (**Acts 3:19**)



HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

- Confess Jesus as Lord.
 - *"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God ..."* (**1 John 4:15**)
- Be baptized for forgiveness.
 - *"... baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ..."* (**Acts 2:38**)
- Remain faithful to Christ.
 - *"... to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation ..."* (**Hebrews 5:9**)