



How do we get to know God with the lights out?

- 3) **What was revealed about God?**--v. 20b.
 - a) God's invisible qualities have been seen in creation. Specifically, we are to see:
 - b) God's eternal power is revealed in creation.
 - c) God's divine nature is also displayed in creation.
 - 4) **What other passages back up this thought?**
Psalm 19:1-5; 8; Gen. 1:1
 - 5) **Is it possible that a person could just not pick up on God because they aren't observant, or because they are in too remote a spot in the world?** v. 20b--". . . *man is without an excuse.*"
2. Its rejection. What has happened to this knowledge?
 - a. They suppressed the truth by their sin--v. 18c.
 - b. The knowledge of God is available, but sin comes in and darkens their hearts and the light--v. 21.
 - c. Man became a foolish idolater--vv. 22-24a.

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D. The proclamation/revelation of the knowledge of God.

1. General revelation--God continues to be known through natural means - the creation--Ps. 19:1-5; Rom. 1:18-21.
2. Special revelation. Disclosure has come in three ways:
 - a. The Spoken Word--II Pet. 1:21; Heb. 1:1-2.
 - b. The Living Word--John 1:1; Heb. 1:1-2; Jn. 14:8-13.
 - c. The Written Word--II Tim. 3:16-17.
 - 1) A theologian's approach: study theology
 - 2) A study of the attributes of God: I have found that a good way to begin or expand our knowledge of God is through His attributes.

Further Studies: **a.** The Fear of God; **b.** Finding the will of God; **c.** Knowing Christ--Phil. 3:7-16; **d.** Paul's view of God's attributes and transcendence--Rom. 11:33-36, etc.

The School of Discipleship

GETTING TO KNOW GOD--PART 1

OUR WORSHIP AND SERVICE IS SMALL BECAUSE OUR CONCEPT OF GOD IS SMALL



INTRODUCTION:

Our biggest need is to diligently get to know God. I believe this is important, because so many of the problems we face will find their roots in a misconception of who God is, of the basic nature of God. Ethical problems, doctrinal errors and counterfeit worship experiences are a result of not understanding who God is. It's obvious then that people everywhere, those inside and outside the church, have an inaccurate view of God, one they have created or inherited--see Acts 17:22-23.

The priority of the wise is to know God

Many believers have very little understanding of who God really is. That's why Jeremiah, among others, focuses our attention on what should be the chief pursuit of our lives--see Jeremiah 9:23-24. Jeremiah shows us that the priority of the wise and understanding person is to understand and know God. Therefore:

A. The primary goal of mankind is the knowledge of God.

1. It is the key to everything--Jeremiah 9:23-24.
2. It is eternal life--John 17:3a. What is eternal life?
 - Eternal life is not just a quantity of life going on forever.
 - It is a quality of life that knows God eternally.

PURSUE THIS GOAL WILL HAVE TREMENDOUS BENEFITS, IF WE PURSUE IT WITH THE RIGHT MOTIVE



B. The profit from knowing God.

1. Those who know God have great energy for Him--Dan. 11:32; Phil. 3:7-11.

a. **Do you want to be used of God?** If you do:

- 1) Get to know God as first priority--Phil. 3:7-11.
- 2) Get to know God with complete dedication--v. 12.
- 3) Getting to know God will give great energy towards reaching the ultimate prize--vv. 13-14.
- 4) Getting to know God is the mature thing to do--v. 15.

b. **Do you have a tough time finding enough energy and desire to serve God?** You may have put your attention on getting to know the how's and why's of Christianity, but neglected the "Who"!

2. Those who know their God have "great thoughts" of Him--Rom. 11:33-36. Ask yourself: What do I think about God? Do I have a tremendous sense of His wisdom, His knowledge, His judgments, His ways, His transcendence, as well as His great faithfulness? Do I have sufficient knowledge and understanding of God that I could introduce Him properly?

3. Those who know their God will also show great boldness for Him--Acts 4:29; Ps. 138:3; Dan. 6.

The principle: Our sense of boldness in standing with what is right is a good test or measure of our knowledge of God.

4. Those who know their God have great contentment in Him--Phil. 4:11-13; Jer. 9:23.

a. There is no peace like the peace of those whose minds are filled with the assurance that they have known God and that God has known them.

b. Our sense of contentment is a good measure of how much we know God. **Are you content? Why?**

5. Those who know their God greatly worship and praise Him--Psalm 100, etc. How is your view of God affecting your praise and worship?

*If our worship is small, it's because our view of God is small. We will enter into worship in direct proportion to our understanding of and relationship with God.

*Worship is one of the best tests of our knowledge of God.

6. Those who know their God greatly please Him--Hos. 6:6; Phil. 3:10a; I Thess. 4:1-12.

*Do you know what pleases God most?

*Do you know what God desires the most? Hos. 6:6

How do we get to know God?

C. **The possession of the knowledge of God.** Rom. 1:18-20 describes what happened with our original possession of the knowledge of God.

1. Its availability--Rom. 1:18. Every person who has ever lived has the truth about God available to them. Where?

a. **It is internally planted**--v. 19. The knowledge of God is inside us. We have to choose not to believe in God.

b. **It is externally perceived**--v. 20a. The knowledge of God is everywhere. When a person looks around the world at creation and sees the amazing macrocosm (the giant world) and the amazing microcosm (the minute world), he knows there's a God who made it all.

This should sponsor several questions.

1) **How do we know this knowledge was plain?** God's Word says God made it plain.

2) **When was this knowledge available?**--v. 20a,c. From the first day of creation this knowledge was available--v. 20a & c. From then until now this message can be clearly seen.