

Subject: *Know Your God*

Scripture: *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

A little girl was playing one day and her mother asked, “What are you doing, honey?” “I’m drawing a picture.” “That’s nice. What are you drawing?” “I’m drawing a picture of God.” “How can you do that? Nobody knows what God looks like.” The little girl said, “They will when I get through.” Each of us has our own picture drawn on the canvas of our minds. How close is our picture to the real God? A. W. Tozer said: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” How well do you know God? Do you really know Him at all? Does your life reflect that you know Him?

1. Knowing God is life’s highest privilege

Look again at our text in Jeremiah 9. What do people like to boast and brag about? People boast about how much they know, how much authority they have, or how much money they have. That’s what many people strive for. God reminds us that the highest honor in life is knowing Him. God is always grieved when people don’t know Him. He is especially grieved when His own people don’t know Him.

- *Isaiah 1:2-3² Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.³ The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.*

2. Knowing God is life’s greatest pursuit

What could be more important? Shortly after Harvard College (now Harvard University) was founded in 1636, the trustees of the school wrote this in one of their founding documents: “Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well that the main end of their studies is to know God and Jesus Christ.” The Bible tells us about the great pursuit of knowing God:

- *David’s advice to Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.* The greatest advice any father could ever give a child is to know God and serve Him. The greatest example any parent could ever set for a child is to know God. I love the story about those three boys who were in a bragging contest. They began to brag about this and that, trying to outdo each other. One boy said, “My dad knows the mayor.” The second boy said, “That’s nothing, my dad knows the governor.” Then the third boy said, “Boys, I can top that. My daddy knows God.”
- *Solomon’s counsel in Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.* It is so easy to be distracted by other pursuits—the pursuit of money, success, entertainment, power, or anything else that demands our time and energy. Knowing God is the greatest pursuit of all.
- *Paul’s testimony in Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*

3. Knowing God is a lifelong process

Just as there is a process in getting to know someone well, getting to know God is a process. Think about the person you married. I first knew about Nancy, then I got to know her personally, and for 37 years now I have grown to know her well. It has been a process.

- **Knowing about God**

Everybody knows there is a God. There is no excuse for people who deny God's existence because God has given plenty of clear evidence. All people can see what God has made and know something about the one true God. He is invisible but He makes Himself known in this unmistakable way. The Creator reveals Himself through His creation.

Psalms 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

Romans 1:18-21 ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

The Bible says that unsaved people are “without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12), but that doesn't mean they are without the knowledge of God. Unsaved people choose to live without God's authority and control over their lives. They know about God, but they will not submit to God. They are without excuse. Last week it was big news when the spacecraft landed on that rock in outer space. Isn't it sad that some of those scientists are more interested in learning about that rock than the God who created it? Some of them would even deny God's existence. What if you or I were to tell the atheist, I just believe that spacecraft happened by itself. It started out as a paper airplane about a billion years ago and then evolved into its present form as a spacecraft. They wouldn't accept that at all because such a highly sophisticated piece of machinery calls for an intelligent designer, doesn't it?

- **Knowing God personally**

God is a personal God. He sees, hears, feels, wills, and acts. He has personal qualities. We are made in His image. We were created to have fellowship with Him, but sin ruined that relationship. Through Jesus Christ that relationship can be restored.

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

Matthew 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.* We can know God personally by faith in Christ, through His indwelling Holy Spirit, and through His written Word. We have not seen God with our physical eyes, but we see Him with our spiritual eyes, and we relate to Him in a spiritual way. There comes a time when God is more than our Creator. He becomes our Father and Jesus becomes our Lord and Savior.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* This verse speaks of intimate knowledge, not just information. Knowing God determines the quality of your life, but it also determines the destiny of your life. Eternal life begins here on earth when we receive Christ as Lord and Savior, and it continues when we get to live with Him forever in glory.

- Knowing God better

This was Paul's one passionate desire, to know Christ better.

Philippians 3:10 *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.*

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

How can we know God better? We know Him better as we walk with Him and talk with Him, and He with us. We get to know him by personal experience. That doesn't mean you automatically know Him better just because you've lived a long life or even been in church all your life. A. W. Tozer wrote a book entitled, *The Pursuit of God*. This pursuit is not for a day, a week, or a month, but for a lifetime. Job was a man who knew God, loved God, feared God, and worshiped God. But Job was like us. He didn't know God as well as he thought he did. Some bad things happened in Job's life and at the end of the ordeal God came to him in a fresh way. What was Job's response?

- **Job 42:5-6** ⁵ *I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.* ⁶ *Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Job confessed that he now had a clearer and better knowledge of God. And he despised himself and repented with a humble and broken heart. If one of the best men who ever lived had to repent and lay himself in the dust before God, where does that leave you and me? I want you to consider a few questions as we close this message:

- Do you know God and does your life show it?
- **Titus 1:16** *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him...*
- Do you know God as well as you want to know Him?
- What are you willing to do to know God better?