

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service: Bible Study

Topic: Knowing God 1
Text: 2 Peter 3:18

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
Teacher: John Ohakim

Introduction

In this two part study, we will briefly examine the concept of the knowledge of God. It is a term that is frequently used in christian communities, yet the full import of this term may not be properly grasped. We attempt to explore the knowledge of God as a concept and then identify from scriptures the fruit/rewards of knowing God. This is not an attempt to present an extensive study of this subject; that would be impossible for many reasons. We only seek to receive motivation to pursue knowing God more than we have done until now. This (I must confess) is a task that is beyond me. Therefore, it is with great hope that the LORD, who is pleased to reveal Himself to us, will work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. AMEN.

God is not reluctant to reveal Himself to us. Actually, it is His will to bring us into a deeper knowledge of Himself (Hebrews 8:10-11). This is one of the reasons He gave us the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 2:12)

God does not call us to seek Him in vain (Isaiah 45:19). Although He is (and must be) the object of the pursuit, finding the knowledge of God brings with it some tangible and glorious outcomes. An awareness of these outcomes can help motivate us to pursue the knowledge of God. Let's explore!

What does it mean to know God?

Is there any value in progressively knowing God personally? Can we identify the results of pursuing and obtaining the knowledge of God?

True Riches (Psalms 19:10; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Philippians 3:7-8; Revelation 3:17-18; Exodus 33:15-16)

The knowledge of God is considered precious in the scriptures. It is by far greater than any human knowledge; it is the knowledge that passes knowledge (see Ephesians 3:19). Nothing that you can ever desire compares to it. It is of inestimable value. To know God personally and deeply is to gain access to wealth that is eternal and inexhaustible.

What does gold represent here? What do honey and the honeycomb represent here?

What are things that people of the world boast/glory in? What about you, what do you boast/glory in?

Clarity, Vision, and Direction (Psalms 36:9; Jeremiah 10:23 NKJV; Proverbs 9:10)

To live without the knowledge of God is to travel through life groping in darkness. Such an individual is ignorant of their true state, ignorant of the true state of others around them, and easily swayed by the dominant culture of the day. An individual who is without the knowledge of God is vulnerable to deceit (both from self and from the father of lies, the Devil). On the other

hand, there is an abundance of light for those who possess the knowledge of God. They see things from the LORD's perspective, have good judgement, and have a true knowledge of themselves. They are free from the pain and burden of having an identity crisis because they see themselves as God sees them in Christ. This knowledge is far beyond mere mental knowledge.

Grace and Peace to Become (2 Peter 1:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10; Philippians 3:12-14; Daniel 11:32 NKJV)

What is grace?

Grace empowers us to become and do what in our own power we are incapable of becoming or doing. It was grace that Paul received to become all we read of him today. It is grace that caused you to become a child of God and to develop into the person you are today. Grace is imparted each time a person enters into fuller knowledge of God. The knowledge of God also imparts peace. Peace that rids its possessor of the inner turmoil of what the future holds; peace that permits such a person to "sleep through a storm" (without the appearance of carelessness) while others clamor and attempt (to exhaustion) to rescue the situation. It frees a person from under the burden of pursuing affluence and things that can never satisfy. This peace brings a healthy contentment and a deep trust in God; it frees the individual from the constant comparison with people, both near and far. It allows us to be at peace with God and His plans for us.

Serve the purpose of God (Matthew 16:13-19; Galatians 1:15-16; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Corinthians 3:1-3)

God's eternal plan is centered around His Church. It is through His Church that God will accomplish plans on the earth. The knowledge of God equips His people to participate in building His Church and enforcing the victory of Christ against the kingdom of Darkness. It transforms the heart and makes us powerful ministers of God.

Character Development and Transformation (1 John 2:3-4; Titus 1:16; 2 Corinthians 3:15-18)

Those who know the LORD obey His commandment. What is His commandment? That we love one another. To know God is to walk in love towards others. You cannot say that you know God and not walk in love. The fruit (the visible expression) of knowing God is to walk in love. Furthermore, as we pursue to know the LORD, He reveals His Son to us and we are transformed into the image of His Son. The knowledge of God produces transformation.

Victory over sin and the world (Psalms 27:1-6; Isaiah 5:13; Psalms 119:9-11; John 8:31-32; 17:16-17)

Ignorance of who God is and what He has done for us in Christ can keep us from walking in defeat. It is as we come to know the LORD that our eyes are opened to our inheritance and the victory that Christ has secured for us on the cross. The knowledge of God allows us to see from God's perspective; it changes our value system; those things that are highly valued by the LORD are highly valued by us and those things that are highly valued in the world, lose their allure in the eyes of the person that knows the LORD.