

NOTES: Sermon- Knowing God 9/29/2023

Monday, September 11, 2023 6:13 PM

Welcome, I'm so glad to be with you today to deliver this sermon on 'Knowing God'. It is fascinating and a bit unnerving when you take up a topic thinking you are on solid footing in terms of understanding, and you find that you really are a novice. This is key in our growing in Christ as part of the sanctification process. We must always be teachable and willing to verify and validate our understanding, and perspectives against God's Word. Nothing could be more true or needed when learning about God. Especially in the times we live in with the absolute apostasy from, twisting and denial of God's truth in His Word. God's Word is the most amazing wonder in its clarity, depth, and ability to speak to us in all situations in life.

Our passage today is Proverbs 9:10. Please read along and reflect with me.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

There are a number of other passages that say very similar things:

Prov 1:7

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 15:33

33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Job 28:28.

28 And he said to man,
'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is understanding.'

I chose this verse because I wanted to be very tightly focused around what it means to know God, starting with "the fear of the Lord" why it is important and how we get there. The phrase "fear God" appears 300 times in the Bible, although the number may vary a bit by translational version. I think it's important enough to understand as the starting point of wisdom.

The Bible is inspired by God by His very Holy Spirit. All else proceeds from this truth. The Holy Spirit superintended the writers by inspiring them to write explicitly what God wanted to reveal.

Knowing God spiritually and intellectually is critical for those who profess to belong to Him.

A. Background

Why is it important to know our God?

While it should be obvious as to why it is important to know God, we must also remember we are commanded to do so. It's vital to review our understanding of God and apply that knowledge to all aspects of our lives

Our great purpose is to know God, glorify Him, and enjoy Him forever.

If you are truly a believer, you will want to know about God. The Holy Spirit testifies to us through the process of sanctification will aid you and grow this desire in you through your time on this Earth.

If you do not desire to know God or hold non-biblical views of God, then you need to ask yourself if you are truly a believer. I would sincerely ask that you take the time to reflect on this and pray for this passion to know your God. The Father who loves His children will help you.

As we reviewed last week when looking at the 'Holiness of God', false knowledge of God will lead to false gospels with no obedience (antinomianism), sexual degeneracy, apostasy, heresy and idolatry.

We must teach, rebuke, and correct wrong understanding through the diligent teaching of God's truth in His Word. We understand that some believers simply have a lack of understanding or have picked up false teachings along their journey. To them we want to lovingly embrace and correct them with all gentleness and grace. There are others, even in the church, who are not truly believers. We're happy to have them among us but we must be on guard to protect the flock. We also want to engage them and show them the infinite love of God for His children and do all we can to help them understand any pray that God would regenerate them and make them a true part of the family of God. Make no mistake, the evil one is real and seeks for any opportunity to devour all he can to keep them from our Father. I pray that each one of us sees the need for guarding this truth and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone as we show them our love and the love of God. Love without this Gospel and the truth of our sinfulness and need for repentance before Christ is not God's love, it is the empty, self-focused narcissistic love of man and self.

The importance of knowing God, assuming one is saved, provides for the growth of the believer while building a bulwark against false teaching, doctrine and practice. This knowledge of God is gained both intellectually and spiritually.

What does it mean to Know God?

It means that you are a true believer, repented of our sin and saved by God. You cannot know God as your savior without this. It also means that you abide in, walk with, and have fellowship with Him. As part of this abiding, walking, and fellowship, you will grow in your knowledge of God spiritually. Desiring to know God, you will also grow in your

intellectual knowledge of God as you study His Word. It also means you purge non-biblical views and doctrines that conflict with the revelation of God in His Word.

Knowing God means that you are His.

B. Exposition

So now that we know why it is important and what it means to know God...

Proverbs 9:10

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

This verse speaks to the first step in knowing God. The first piece of the knowledge is "the fear of lord". This tells us to show the proper reverence being shown to God. As His children we are not fearful as if we are going to be abused, or of his judgments against the unbelievers but we show our respect, and reverential affection. There is an aspect of fear here certainly. When we understand how majestic, perfect and Holy God is we do have an aspect of fear as the Israelites at the foot of the mountain when God spoke to them in Exodus 20:18. It is a fear of offending so perfect a Being and believing who He says He is in the Word. The offending of this perfect being is when we sin against Him. Knowing sin is truly offensive to God opens our eyes to who we are in relation to Him.

The fear of the Lord is the starting point of true wisdom. A man begins to be wise when he has that reverential fear and respect for God as the starting point for truly knowing Him. No man can be truly wise until he fears the Lord.

"The fear of the Lord" is the first key element of knowledge in wisdom. Knowledge can exist without wisdom. Wisdom cannot exist without knowledge. Wisdom is the ability to rightly apply knowledge. **Wisdom is the ability to digest knowledge intimately enough that it can be explained to a child.**

Know your God and His Word so intimately and so deeply that you can share it with others as if they were a child. It is sinful to obscure the truth of God in order preserve our pride and arrogance over the flock.

The knowledge referenced here is knowing who God really is. We learn of our Lord in the Word through the illumination of our minds by the Holy Spirit. This knowledge is insight or understanding. It is the evangelical knowledge of God we see in Jesus Christ. This learning then shows us that as the God of all grace we are to have faith and hope in him, access unto him and communion with him. This truth will tell us of God in the persons of the Godhead (Father/Son/Holy Spirit).

As a result of our salvation, we have a spiritual relationship with the Father, by the Son and through the Holy Spirit. We are of Him, we believe in Him and are to commune with Him as all believers must.

For the believer the knowledge must also include fellowship with God. This fellowship starts with regeneration, repentance, and faith and the sealing of us with the Holy Spirit. This fellowship continues to grow in us and transform us through sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit all the days of our lives. The word sanctification simply means transforming us into Christlikeness in all aspects as new Creatures. We are to relate and commune with our God. We are to converse and abide directly with God. We do not merely have access to His presence. This fellowship is developed throughout our lives through prayer, meditation and the practicing of the other Christian disciplines of living in service to one another, studying and imbibing the Word, fellowshiping with the brothers and sisters, and praising and worshiping our Holy God.

Engaging in communion with the living God can be very scary. It is a letting go of self, becoming childlike in our trust to be in fellowship closely and intimately with the creator of the universe! To this we are called by God! I pray that you will work to develop in each of your lives and in the lives of your children.

This knowledge is to be spiritual and intellectual. We need to stress and will talk more on this later that the knowledge gained intellectually of God bound by the Bible and the Holy Spirit. This intellectual learning, when done properly, will enhance and expand our understanding, gratitude and certainty of who God is during our pilgrimage here on Earth.

Now I would like to take some time to review a number of key verses that God revealed to us about knowing Him.

Resting in God

John 6:69

69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

-Shows us that by His teaching, actions and their knowledge of the Old Testament, they came to know Jesus with the aid of the Holy Spirit. This was revealed to them from above.

1 John 5:20

20 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. He is the true God and eternal life

-As His children, believers we know that Jesus has come, that He is true and we are in Jesus Christ.

Promises and encouragement

Jer 24:7

7 I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

-God gives us a heart to know. This goes beyond the intellectual and speaks to the spiritual. Thank God for this. Not all have extensive knowledge of God especially those

who are baby Christians. You do NOT have to have a seminary degree to know God.
-In Jeremiah 31:33, we are told that His law is written on the heart of the saved in the new covenant. This is how we know that He is Lord.

John 17:3

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

-This is a fundamental piece of knowledge in knowing God.
-To know God and His Son Jesus Christ is to have eternal life.

Standing in Christ

1 Cor. 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

-His people are holy temples and we are to know that and that the Spirit dwells in us.
-God is truly present in His people. We are His personal temples which replaced the temple in Israel that was for the nation.
-Do we understand how amazing this is?

1 Cor. 6:19

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

-As his people are temples with the Holy Spirit within them we know that we were bought with a price and belong to Him.
-We must glorify God in our body by glorifying God through obedience.
-No longer a temple in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit has sealed us and abides in us, the new temple. This is gloriously manifested when each of us come together and in union with Christ and the Holy Spirit as the Church!

Not Knowing

2 Thess 1:8

8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

-To not know or obey the gospel of Jesus makes one a non-believer. Do not be deceived, they will not be saved.
-Do we understand? Do we not understand the desperate need to tell those perishing of Christ and the one way unto salvation?

James 4:4

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- Friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God. A believer must know this.
- To be a friend of the world is to be an adulterous spouse.
- In all things, be transformed not conformed to the world.

Encouragement

1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him

- We see that the unbeliever cannot know the Love the Father has given us as children of God because they do not know Him.
- Do not be surprised when the world persecutes you since they do not know Him. As the master was treated, so will His people be treated.

Deut 9:3

3 Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a consuming fire is the LORD your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you.

- Know that God is passionate and zealous for His people. He will destroy His enemies. His enemies are also ours.
- If God is for us, who can be against us? Oh the unsearchable riches of the knowledge and wisdom of God!

Ps 46:10

**10 “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”**

- Be calm and reassured having faith in knowing that He is our God exalted above all.
- Know this always, remember, contemplate. This is His universe and world. The war is won. We have the distinct privilege to be part of this passion play in this time.

Ps 100:3

**Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

- Have faith, trust and know that the Lord is God of us, His people.
- Assurance of the highest degree. Once His, always His. There is much deep doctrine here. See who our God is and rejoice!

We can know all we need to know from God's Word. This is to be done in the Church primarily, with her teaching, fellowship, and supplemental learning in so far as it aligns explicitly with the teaching of the Word. The elders and leaders in the church are here for this purpose to be undershepherds for the great shepherd in protecting the flock. Do not revile or rebel against godly servant leadership provided by God for your benefit.

We have seen additional aspects to knowing God and what awaits those who do not know Him. Now I would like to look at some key areas of caution to watch for so as not to get diverted from knowing God. With so many diversions, false doctrines, false teachers and outright lying deceivers we must be diligent as undershepherds, mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters.

We absolutely must defend the faith including the honor and integrity of our God. Truly it is God that defends, but we are his ambassadors, servants and warriors. We are to contend for the faith. To fight for His truth, we must have the knowledge of our God revealed to us in His Word.

Two Aspects of the Knowledge of God

As discussed there is the intellectual and spiritual aspect aspects of knowing God.

The spiritual aspect comes first. It begins with our regeneration, repentance, faith and the seal of the Holy Spirit within us unto our salvation. The intellectual aspect, gained mostly from learning God's Word. This learning of God continues in the believer throughout their lives.

So let's look at these two aspects a bit deeper.

1. **Knowledge about God** (by the Word)

- Understand that knowledge of God alone does not mean you have salvation.
- We are commanded to learn of our God to know Him as He has revealed Himself.
- The trusted source for learning about God is the Bible.
- There are a variety of tools to learn of God. These tools must be tightly tethered to the Bible and must have the proper perspective of God and our relationship to Him.
- We must discern and avoid sources that conflict with the Word or put man before God.
- We must be focused on avoiding pride and arrogance in learning as it can twist and distort truth in the Word or supporting tools.
- We must not become unbalanced and become overly intellectual in our learning of God.

We must clearly understand that intellectual knowledge is insufficient to truly know God as it does not guarantee salvation.

2. **Knowing God** (by fellowship with God)

- This is not speaking to forensic knowledge but to spiritual realities.
- To truly know God, we must have fellowship with God.
- It only begins with true salvation defined by the Word.
- Prayer and meditation are vital tools that will help us to abide and commune with

God.

-The Holy Spirit fans the flame of our desire to know God, and so aids us in growing closer to Him through His Word, and prayer.

-We must not become unbalanced and become driven by emotionalism, mysticism or the pursuit of experiences.

We must clearly understand that to truly know God we must be saved and have fellowship with Him. Intellectual knowledge will enhance this but is not a substitute.

Cautions

We will now review where to show caution in our pursuit of knowing God. The evil one does and will take advantage by any means to interfere with this pursuit.

1. Posers/False Professions

There is a growing group of people that proclaim to be Christians while denying the essential doctrines of the Christian faith. If the core doctrine(s) are not held by such people or the Word is manipulated, not believed, or trusted then their profession is that they are likely not true believers. This does not mean we determine the salvation of anyone. It also means that we must not deny the reality or ignore their false beliefs and teachings. I have little doubt there are some who are believers and are misled. We need to show grace and proclaim the full counsel of God's Word to them as we should do for anyone in the church.

We must guard the faith and the flock. We must discern, rebuke, teach against, and discipline heresy, apostasy, false teaching, false professions of faith for their sake. The clear proclamation of God's truth in preaching and teaching will help the flock to distinguish between deception and truth.

2. Knowledge as Pride

We must study God with the intention that the knowledge gained of God is the means and not the end. Our true end goal must be to know God personally and practically.

The pursuit of intellectual knowledge is only of value if the end is to know God. Our end goal is not to be intellectual scholars. It is when this pursuit of intellectual knowledge becomes the end, that it becomes pride and arrogance centric. This is a big problem in America today.

1 Cor. 8:1-3

This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

What a stunning rebuke to those who puffed up think that they know something! They do not yet know as they ought to know. This is pride versus true humility.

As we gain more and more knowledge about God, we can go in 1 of 2 directions. Some try to go a third way by combining the two. These two ways are Intellectual pride and arrogance or true humility. Application and understanding of the truth of God will lead to true humility not elevation and condescension. This is often the pivot point and struggle for many Christians especially those with much higher learning. This pursuit is rife with pride, arrogance and condescension. The truth is that many cannot see this distinction or the danger.

The Christian life is fellowship and communion with God Himself. The consumption and application of teaching can only add to it if properly obtained.

Just because someone has right doctrine or views doesn't make them a Christian. Nor does it mean that you have fellowship with the Father and Son. The first step, the presupposition is that one must be saved by God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

This requires we view the dangers to gaining the knowledge of God

- a. Intellectual/philosophical. Do not submit to the Word of God.
 - They sit in judgment on revelation.
 - They see man's fallen nature and reason as the arbiter of truth.
 - They are practical skeptics of inspiration as a result.

- b. Emotive. Profess to submit to the Word of God but very selective and subjective.
 - They have a range of acceptance on spectrum of commitment.
 - They cherry pick, read into Scripture (eisegesis), ignore/omit/twist.
 - They typically unify around essentials that use sources other than the Bible, and slide to apostasy.
 - They tend to start in the Spirit but go back to flesh, legalism, cult following.

- c. Theoretical/Orthodox. Submit to the Word of God.
 - They have variations in theological systems, Reformed, Dispensational
 - They have general unity around knowledge, essential doctrines, manifestation in life
 - They tend to legalize their positions even if they deny.

I indicate these as knowledge as pride because I've found invariably most are unteachable. They are steeped in positional pride and often take personal offense at any suggestion they need to reflect. It is best to pray for God's intervention to show the truth and preach and teach with humility, grace and patience in an effort to reach them.

Now that we have the understanding of why knowing God is important, what it means to know Him, and how to guard ourselves in the process, we need to understand who is God?

Who is God?

God is triune. The Godhead is one God in three persons. There is often much discussion over the right wording to use but the bottom line is God is one being and is comprised of 3 distinct persons who are inseparable. They are not each detachable parts of God.

- The Father is the Creator.
- The Son is the redeemer.
- The Spirit is the sanctifier.

Generally this is true but each could be said to have aspects of each other. For example, all three were present at creation.

Because each person of the Trinity is fully God, they share the same purpose and activity, but the ways they think and act are distinctive to each.

Helpful verses on the trinity.

Matt. 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:32-33

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit

John 16:13-15

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

God the Father

God the Father is the creator of all things, visible and invisible, sustaining and sovereignly ruling over creation in an active relationship of love.

He is sovereign over the entire universe with His loving providential care accomplishing all of His plans and decrees.

While we reviewed these attributes last week, I believe it's necessary to touch on them here as well. His attributes include truthfulness, faithfulness, graciousness, wisdom, knowledge, power, holiness, righteousness, goodness, justice, love, rationality, mercy, speech, hate(righteously), wrath, and jealousy. It is these that we share at least to some small degree while God possesses them perfectly.

His other attributes include eternity, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience,

infiniteness, self-existence (aseity), immutability(does not change), self-sufficiency, sovereignty, transcendence, uniqueness, and being spirit. These are the attributes that He alone possesses perfectly.

God is perfect in all His attributes. The combining of all those attributes together in perfection is what makes Him Holy, Holy, Holy.

God's essence is holy. It is the crown of the Godhead. His name is Holy, it defines who God is. Of course as part of the Godhead, the Son and the Spirit also share in these attributes.

God the Son

God the Son is the mediator of the new birth between God and man. He is the prophet, priest and king without sin, having a human and divine nature.

Jesus the Son was made sin for us, crucified, died, buried and raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God.

The essence of knowing God is found in Jesus Christ. It is the greatest mystery of all, the Son becoming man while maintaining His divinity. This is called the incarnation.

In becoming sin as a substitute for us trapped in our sin, He was able to atone for us in reconciling us to God. This atonement is the only way to salvation.

The book of John contains the amazing statements about the deity of Christ and His incarnation or birth as a man. I would like to quote them here.

From John 1:1-14

- 1- 'In the beginning was the Word'.
- 2- 'And the Word was with God'.
- 3- 'And the Word was God'.
- 4- 'Through Him all things were made'.
- 5- 'In Him was life'.
- 6- 'And that life was the light of men'.
- 7- 'The Word became flesh'.

The perfect work of Jesus provides the means by which we can gain salvation by being reconciled to God.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and is the same substance and equal in power and glory with the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit functions as the life-giving agent of creation and the new creation in us. He is the principal agent in revelation, illumination and persuasion. He also brings about conviction, regeneration and the transformation of hearts. The Spirit applies the work of the son to the hearts and lives of Christ's chosen people. The Spirit unites believers to Christ.

This was a very high level introduction to who God is in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a deep well that we should prayerfully and humbly learn more of as God has revealed to us.

C. Application

True and saving knowledge of God is not only comprehension, understanding and knowledge but decision and action. The church's big weakness today is the ignorance of the true God.

Our minds have been conformed to the world. This must change Paul (Romans 12:2) and Peter (1 Peter 1:14) tell us in the Word.

Biblical analogies for knowing God

- Son knowing his father
- A Wife knowing her husband
- A subject knowing his King
- A sheep knowing its shepherd

The foundational truths for knowing God

- God has spoken to us in His Word.
- God is Lord and King over His World.
- God is Savior.
- God is Triune.
- Godliness is responding to God's revelation in trust, obedience, faith and worship, prayer, praise, submission and service.

How to Know God

There are a number of ways in which the man or woman of God shows what it means to know God. Please understand that this view is of a maturing Christian. We should strive to increase in these through our lives with the help of the Holy Spirit. Do not become discouraged, this is the work of the evil one. Seek help from the brethren. No one is an island as a Christian, we are to be one in Christ.

These are meant to demonstrate the characteristics of the Christian who desires to know God.

1. You must be truly saved. You fulfill this when you have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, your heart of stone turned into flesh by the Holy Spirit in regeneration, and you have repented of and turned from your sin, and indicated by faith that you believe in Christ as your Lord and savior.
2. You will abide in Christ through the Holy Spirit and maintain fellowship with Him.
3. You see the true God as He has revealed Himself. You also see yourself rightly as fallen, sinful and in need of God's grace.
4. You are undone when you 'see' God in His revealed holiness.
5. You understand the need to learn and grow in your knowledge of God by His Word.
6. Since you know how holy God is, you will actively and aggressively seek to purge sin in daily repentance.
7. Your desire to know God helps ensure that you represent God accurately as indicated in the Word.
8. Your love for God is displayed by obedience to His Word.
9. Your privilege of having fellowship with God is known by your deep and abiding prayer life.
10. You will serve God, His people and fulfill your role in the Great Commission as called by God according to His Word.
11. You will grow in true humility the more you learn about God and progress through this process of sanctification or growing in Christlikeness.
12. You will grow in personal holiness the more you learn about God and progress through this process of sanctification or growing in Christlikeness.
13. You will be diligent to avoid apostasy, heresy, dead orthodoxy, emotionalism, and compromise.
14. You will strive to maintain balance between the intellectual and spiritual aspects of knowing God for the sake of maintaining your first love.

We do these things through the application of the common Christian disciplines including prayer, meditation, study the Word, fellowship with God, worship of God, praise of God, fellowship with believers, service for others.

I would like to look at what it means to be in fellowship for applying to our lives. I believe this an area that is fundamentally lacking because it is contrary to all that the world tells us to do. The evil one most decidedly does not want us to be in true fellowship with the Father. He wants us to be handicapped in our relationship with Him.

What does fellowship mean?

Partake in life of God, 2 Peter 1:4

-We have received divine life.

Caution- don't go beyond Scripture into mysticism.

-We are sealed with Spirit. We are in God, God is in us. We are to share with God through conversing, abiding, delight in Him, having joy in His presence, praising Him, desiring to speak with Him.

Partner with Him in His interests and great purpose.

-We are to continually meditate. We are to continually pray. In so doing we are to do all can in the furthering of the Kingdom of Life.

How to know we are in fellowship?

- Examine our prayer life, prayer is the best evidence for a man's view of God.
- You 'know' God is present in all. You know this both spiritually and intellectually.
- He is our consolation, holy desire, and our longing. Phil 2:13.
- He reveals His will to us. We see Him opening/closing of doors in accordance with His Word.
- He provides us strength and we recognize it.
- You 'know' you are not alone both spiritually and intellectually.

Those who are in fellowship with God often manifest certain characteristics:

- They have a great energy for God.
- They have great thoughts of God.
- They pray for God's cause.
- They show great boldness.
- They have great contentment.

Please understand, that the things covered in this application section is not a call to legalism. We obey Christ and all that He has commanded out of love for the love He has shown us in reconciling us to God through God's grace alone. The legalist seeks to obey because they can do something to merit or count towards their salvation.

Reflection on our behavior and obedience because we love the Lord is not legalism. It is the proper response to reflect and strive to become more Christlike. We are the sons and daughters of the living God, so we purify ourselves by eliminating sin and repenting during our pilgrimage with the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

D. Conclusion

The god of popular religion is not Holy. As we looked at 'The Holiness of God' last week, he is an idol created by man that is not the God of the Bible as revealed by God.

Our purpose is to know God. The true God. Our creator, redeemer, protector and loving Father.

Wrath and judgment on this country and the false church has begun. We're always told we're at the crossroads, the next election, or whatever is key. No, People of God, understand that His Word clearly tells us that we are already under judgment. We've long since passed through the cross roads. We did so decade ago. We must know our God, purify ourselves, repent humbly of our sin, grow closer to Him and fulfill our commission to share the love and salvation of Christ with the world!

Once you understand what it means to know God and grow in our knowledge of God and in fellowship with Him, we will have greater reverence, awe and fear of the Lord. Our growth in Him will increase and the Holy Spirit will transform us in Christlikeness. We will be the light shining on the Hill for our God and Savior. This is what the world needs most!

J.C. Ryle Knowing God

"We see now what it meant for the Son of God to empty himself and become poor. It meant laying aside of glory; a voluntary restraint of power; an acceptance of hardship, isolation, ill-treatment, malice and misunderstanding; finally, a death that involved such agony- spiritual even more than physical- that his mind nearly broke under the prospect of it.

It meant love to the uttermost for unlovely human beings, that they through his poverty might become rich. Chap 5,65.

This is our God! This is what God has done for His people! How can we not respond in gratitude, love and obedience? How can we not respond in praise, worship and our very lives?

While we must remain clear on who God is, know that he will and does tenderly, lovingly and with all forgiveness he wants to abide with us to conform us to His Son now and into eternity.

The supremely important fact is that God knows us. Know him because we love Him.

So we have this confirming clear command given by Peter...

2 Peter 3:17-18

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Our Holy, almighty God, and Father loves His children. He loved us so much that he gave His only Son to die for us to reconcile us to Him. He provides His Holy Spirit to illumine, guide and protect us while we remain on this earth.

What could be more tender and loving?