

---

---

# Sermon Notes

January 12, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

---

## To Know Him Is To Love Him

Jeremiah 9:23-24

### Taking Stock

- ❖ If you were falsely accused, unjustly imprisoned and not having your basic needs met, what would be the top thing on your mind?
  - how did Paul face these same sorts of circumstances?
  - in Philippians 3:7-8, Paul pulls back the curtain to show how he can stay so positive when everything around him is so negative
- ❖ The importance of knowing God
  - Paul says everything else = rubbish
  - rubbish = manure
- ❖ Nothing tops knowing God!

### Knowing God

- ❖ How well (intimately, personally) do you know God?
  - when we know God we have big thoughts of God and small thoughts of ourselves
  - knowing God expands our minds and feeds our souls

- ❖ Nothing will bring you more peace and comfort than knowing the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of God
- ❖ Going through the motions
  - Isaiah 29:13, *this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men*
  - a tearful response to this (Jeremiah 9:1-3, Luke 23:28)
  - God speaks through Jeremiah and gives the antidote to this problem (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
- ❖ in the Bible, boasting = putting confidence in something or glorying in something
  - make your boast (put your confidence) in knowing God
  - glory in the name and character of the Lord
- ❖ How can we better know the God we worship?
  - the purpose of theology is doxology
  - how will knowing God better lead us to be more effective in fulfilling the purposes God has for us as His people in this community at this time?

### How Great Is Our God!

- ❖ A journey of discovery!

- knowing God is not simply a gathering of facts about God (1 Corinthians 8:22)
- at the same time, we cannot be spiritually healthy if we are deficient in knowing what God says about Himself in His Word
- ❖ The model of the psalmist in Psalm 119
  - *Oh, how I love your law... how sweet are your words to my taste...*
  - these are not the dispassionate pleas of someone who just wants to pile up theoretical knowledge about God
  - the supreme desire of the psalmist is to know God better so he can enjoy God more
- ❖ Knowing God is the means to enjoying God
  - to know God is to love Him
  - we need to know God more today than we did yesterday
  - we need to know God more tomorrow than we do today
- ❖ Turn every nugget of truth you learn about God into prayer and praise
  - J. I. Packer, “Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God.”
  - meditating is talking to yourself
  - meditation leads to to knowing God more, loving God more, worshiping God more fully and freely

- ❖ Set your heart and mind on spending time with Jesus
  - Jesus is just as present and available with us spiritually as He was with the people who encounter Him physically in the New Testament
  - Acts 4:13, look what spending time with Jesus will accomplish!

<h3>Personal Reflection</h3>
------------------------------

1. How important is knowing God to you?
2. Examine yourself and evaluate how well (deeply, personally, intimately) you know God.
3. Ask God to show you how great your need is to know Him better. Ask God to reshape your heart so that you will have a hunger and thirst to know God more deeply. Ask God to put a burning in you to make knowing God the greatest priority of your life.
4. How will knowing God better increase your freedom and joy in life? How will this enhance your worship?
5. How will knowing God better lead you to be more effective in fulfilling the purposes God has for you?