

Series: John
Title: Knowing the Father
Text: John 8: 16-30
Date: Aug 8, 2021
Place: SGBC, NJ

John 8: 16: And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. 17: It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. 19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. 20: These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come. 21: Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. 22 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. 23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins. 25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even *the same* that I said unto you from the beginning. 26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. 27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father. 28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. 29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. 30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

Proposition: There is no salvation without knowing God. And there is no knowing God apart from knowing the Lord Jesus Christ—salvation is through faith in Christ.

God the Father bears witness of Christ and by Christ God the Father is known—*"I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me."*

On the Mt of Transfiguration God spoke from heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Jn 10: 20).

Likewise, the Spirit of God bears witness of Christ. "And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit IS TRUTH" (1 Jn 5: 6) The knowledge here spoken of is not knowledge we pick up as a matter of book learning. But knowledge given us by Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not knowledge communicated by a preacher. This is knowledge given in divine revelation by God the Holy Spirit.

John 16: 13: Howbeit when he, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, is come, he will guide you INTO ALL TRUTH: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: HE SHALL GLORIFY ME: for he shall receive of mine and shall shew it unto you.

Also, God bears witness of Christ throughout all the scripture. The scripture is the word OF God. In all scripture God bears witness of Christ his Son. The whole Word OF God bears witness OF Christ. He said, "They are they which testify of me" (Jn 5:39).

John 8: 19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also....

Hear what Christ said. Knowing Christ is knowing God the Father. Everything God has to reveal about himself is known in Christ Jesus. Salvation is believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believing Christ, we believe God the Father. The Lord said in verse 24, "*if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*" Christ said, "I am the Way, THE TRUTH, and the life, no man cometh to the Father BUT BY ME" (Jn 14: 6).

KNOW THE FATHER BY KNOWING THE SON

John 8: 19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, “He that has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn 14: 9).

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

He that knows the Son, knows the Father. He that worships the Son worships the Father. He that adores the Son adores the Father. He that believes on the Son believes on the Father. “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2: 9).

Beholding Christ we behold every attribute of God. You can take Christ’s whole life and see every attribute of the Father. Here are a few examples.

Omnipotence. God is omnipotent—all powerful—ruling all things by the word of his power. “Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind” (Ps 104:3). Our Lord Jesus Christ stilled the wind and the waves and the storm. He came walking on the sea in the midst of that storm. The same as God the Father is omnipotent, all-powerful God, so Christ Jesus is omnipotence. If you know Christ as God omnipotent then you know the Father who is omnipotent. We see God’s power and sovereignty manifest in Christ Jesus in that no man could touch him until the hour appointed. Verse 20 says, “*These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.*” He declared I am the Light of the world. Think of the sun in the sky. Christ is the Sun of Righteousness arisen with healing in his wings. The sun sets at the hour appointed by God every day. No man can stop the sun from setting at the time appointed by God and no man can make it set sooner. So Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, set at the hour appointed by God from the foundation of the world. God promised Abraham that he would visit his people after 430 years of captivity. God did it, even to the day (Ex 12: 40-41). So it was that Christ laid down his life at the precise hour appointed by God from the foundation of the world. He said, “No man taketh [my life] from me, I lay it down of myself” (Jn 10: 18). No man could harm him until that hour because the Lord Jesus Christ is God omnipotent the same as God his Father.

Omniscience. In Christ we see omniscient God. God the Father knows all things. Likewise Christ Jesus knew, and knows, all things. He knew people’s thoughts. He said to Nathaniel: “When you were under the fig tree, I saw you” (Jn 1: 50). He “needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man” (Jn 2:25). The same as God the Father is all-knowing so the Lord Jesus Christ is the all-knowing Son of God in a human body.

Omnipresence. God is Spirit. He is present everywhere at once. Our Lord Jesus Christ as God—even while in this earth—was omnipresent. How so? Though in body he was one place at a time, yet, while the Son of man was in the earth in bodily form, as the Son of God he never left bosom of the Father. “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which IS in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*” (Jn 1: 18).

God’s glory. Every glorious attribute of God is seen in the Lord Jesus Christ. God the Father is holy, righteous, and merciful. God is love, longsuffering, kind, yet just, in no wise clearing the guilty. Our Lord Jesus Christ is perfect righteousness, perfect holiness, perfect love, perfect mercy, perfectly just. Moses saw the glory of the Lord. Christ Jesus is the glory of God. “Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Heb 1:3). Christ is Love. He laid down his life for his people because he loves his Father and he loves his elect with an everlasting love. He saved, and saves, those he loves. The Lord Jesus Christ is just and merciful even as God the Father. He made justice and mercy kiss in harmony on the cross by his substitutionary death for his people. Christ is holy as God is holy. He knew no sin in his nature. In all his works he said in verse 29, “*I do always those things that which please the Father.*”

God is from above. Christ said, v23: “*I am from above, I am not of this world.*” Christ IS God! He said in verse 24, “*if ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins.*” He declared, “Before Abraham was, I AM!” (Jn 8: 58). He is the great I AM.

Do you want to know the Father? Come to know the Son. Believe on the Son. “*If ye believe not that I AM, ye shall die in your sins.*” This knowledge of the Father is by divine revelation given us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

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*.

KNOW THE FATHER BY CHRIST’S FINISHED WORK

John 8: 28: Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

Knowing Christ and him crucified—his finished work for chosen sinners—is to know God the Father. We must believe on Christ because God the Father sent Christ to save his people from our sins by reconciling his people to himself through the cross.

The Son of man came to do the will of the Father. He took flesh like unto his brethren in order to be lifted up on the cross like the brazen serpent that his people might look to him in faith and live. Christ Jesus came to reveal the Father by reconciling his people to the Father on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5: 18: And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20: Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

God’s elect were children of wrath, enemies to God, enemies in our own minds due to our sin. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to reconcile us unto God. He is the Prince of Peace. The Lord Jesus brought peace from heaven to earth between God and men as the Mediator between God and men. He reconciled his people to God by putting away our sin and making God’s elect the righteousness of God in him.

Knowing Christ we know the Father because Christ came to reveal the Father by reconciling his people to God—justly. He accomplished it for us on the cross. The Lord Jesus is the substitute for chosen sinners who took our place under the wrath and justice of God to declare God’s righteousness. He accomplishes reconciliation in us by giving us a new nature in the new birth bringing us into peace with God. It is all done in the righteousness of God our Father. It is all done in the righteousness of Christ our Righteousness. He is just and merciful. Oh, what wisdom!

How do we know Christ. Christ said, “I am the light of the world.” When Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, arises in the heart of his child then we know him. Knowing Christ then we know the Father and believe on him. There is one sun in the atmosphere. So there is one Light. Christ the Light. When the sun rises there is light and no man can stop it. When the Daystar arises in the heart there is Light and no man can stop his light. His saving grace is irresistible, effectual grace.

Knowing the Son, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we know the Father. Everything the Father has for his child is in his Son and it is all through the blood and righteousness of Christ who gave himself to save his people from our sins.

The will of God toward his people is in his Son—“by the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once” (Heb 10: 10).

The love of God toward his people is in Christ alone—no one and no thing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8: 39).

Every blessing God has for his people is in Christ and by Christ—“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph 1: 3-6).

There is no salvation without knowing God. And there is no knowing God apart from knowing and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. God is revealed in Christ and him crucified. The Son of God came down and took flesh and dwelt among us so that we might know the eternal, infinite, incomprehensible God. Jesus Christ is the revelation of the invisible God. He is not one of many revelations. The Lord Jesus is THE revelation of the invisible God. In Christ crucified is the righteous God, and the righteousness of God, revealed.

John 14:7: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8: Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? 10: Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Christ is the Word of God who speaks the words of life into the heart revealing the Father’s glory in his own face.

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

When the Word speaks the words of life then we believe on Christ. Then we know the Father by knowing the Son. Verse 30, “*As he spake these words many believed on him.*” Oh that he might speak today and many believe on him. If you would know the Father, know the Son. If you would believe the Father, believe on the Son. Believing on God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ you shall be saved from your sins.

Amen!