

Week 6: "Knowing God"

Memory Verse: *Paul's Charge To Timothy*

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Day One

Sunday, November 24, 2002

Knowing God

Read: Philippians 3:1-14 (p. 1369) and Commentary (p. 1369)

Reflect: Who knew President Lincoln better-his butler who lived with him in the White House, or a present day brilliant historian who knows Lincoln's life from this distance and with great intellectual knowledge? Explain your answer.

What is the difference between knowing God's *will* and knowing his *ways*?

Dig: Do a word study of the concept of "knowing" God.

Study John 14:15-17 (p. 1221): How is knowledge of God tied to obedience and truth?

Study I Corinthians 13:8-12 (p. 1320): How is knowledge tied to love and to growing up spiritually?

Study Philippians 3:1-14: How is knowledge tied to turning away from our past sinful life and the things we usually put trust in?

Finally, what does Proverbs 1:7 (p.693) contribute to our understanding of knowing God?

Apply: List the things that get in the way of your knowing God.

Conclude with a prayer in which you throw these things in the garbage pail and

ask to know God more deeply.

Day Two
Monday, November 25, 2002
"The Glory of God"

Read: Joshua 24:19-27 (p. 259) and Commentary (p. 259)

Reflect: When you think of purity, what comes to mind? When you are in the presence of someone or something pure, what feelings do you have? What does purity have to do with spiritual freedom?

Dig: Only one characteristic of God is emphasized in the Hebrew language by being repeated three times. Find the text where this is found (Isaiah 6:1-7, p. 759) and notice the human reaction. What does this tell you about God's holiness?

The Hebrew word for "glory" is "Kabod" which means "weight" and "light." Notice how central glory is to the heart of Jesus (John 17:1-5, 24, p. 1225).

Freedom in Christ is glorious because we were made for glory. How does Jesus bring together the concepts of holiness, glory and freedom to again see God's glory?

Apply: Since only the "pure in heart" shall see God (Matt. 5:4), ask God for a pure heart today and for the grace to pay attention to glimpses of God's glory.

Put on "glory glasses" to see God's glory all around you (in creation, in human beings made in his image, in healed brokenness).

Day Three
Tuesday, November 26, 2002
"The Omnipresent God"

Read: Psalm 139 (p. 681) and Commentary (p. 683)

Reflect: Places are sometimes referred to as "godless" because they are so dark spiritually. Where have you been that you would describe as "godless" or "God-forsaken"?

Dig: Study some other scripture passages that affirm God's constant presence:

- Psalm 23 (p. 605): verse 4 is called the center of this Psalm. What is the

main thought of this center? How has Psalm we been God's "presence" to you?

- Matthew 1:23 (p. 1077): How does this name given to Jesus help us understand God's presence with us?
- Matthew 18:18-20 (p. 1102): Is God's presence intensified when we come together? What are the qualifiers or conditions of this magnified presence?
- How is this omnipresence of God freedom-giving? (hint, see Psalm 139:10)

Apply: Re-write Psalm 139:7-10 but now put it in terms of your own life experiences of valleys and mountains. Conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for his 24-7 presence in your life.

Day Four
Wednesday, November 27, 2002
"The Omnipotent God"

Read: Read: Revelation 19 (p. 1499) and Commentary (p. 1500)

Reflect: When in your life have you experienced the power of nature most spectacularly? What was your reaction? What does this power reveal about God?

Dig: Carefully read the description of the Warrior of God in verses 12-16. Study these other Bible passages to fill in this fantastic picture:

- "eyes are like blazing fire"-see Revelation 1:14 (how is this portrait different?)
- "on his head were many crowns"-see Matthew 27:28-29 (notice the irony here)
- "dressed in a robe dipped in blood" --see John 19:34 (crucifixion scene-weakness turns to strength)
- "name is the Word of God"-John 1:1, Hebrews 4:12-13 (power in Word for what?)

Why is there so much rejoicing and worship going on in this rather brutal scene? (hint: see Romans 12:19)

How does the truth of God's awesome power bring you freedom?

Apply: God's judgment will be sure, public, and furious. We are in warfare everyday. God is on our side. If you have a hymnbook available, find "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and sing it or just read the words. If not, use Psalm 46 to guide your prayer today.

Day Five
Thursday, November 28, 2002
"The Goal of The Omniscient"

Read: 1 Chronicles 28:9 (p. 466) and Commentary (p. 466)

Reflect: What person do you know the best; their heart, their history, their hopes and dreams? How accurately could you predict what that person might do or say next? What are the limits of your understanding of that person?

Dig: What is the command of David to Solomon in the beginning of 1 Chronicles 28:9 and what is the reason given for the command?

Study Isaiah 55:8-9 (p. 813) and notice what comes directly before and then directly after these two verses. What prompts the thought that God's ways are so different than ours and then what thought follows this declaration of God's ways?

How do these discoveries tie into the 1 Chronicles passage?

How does this fact of the all-knowing power of God bring you freedom?

Apply: Since "secret sin is open scandal in heaven" why not just agree with God about the state of your heart today and then thank him that he knows it all already and that he also forgives and cleanses.

Ask God to help you live your life for the audience of One today!