**Knowing The God of All Creation**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 1:18-25**

**Sunday Morning**

**January 15, 2023**

**Romans 1:18-25**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**We’ve all had the privilege of knowing someone who stands out above everyone else in our minds**

But the greatest privilege bestowed on any of us is the privilege of knowing God and His Son, Jesus Christ. That was the passion of the apostle Paul’s life and should be the pursuit of everyone who claims Christ as Savior and Lord.

Saints, Paul’s insatiable hunger for knowing Christ is recorded in:

**Philippians 3:7-11**

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Saints, everything he’d valued before salvation, he now considered as rubbish, saying,

**Philippians 3:8**

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

**Why do so many people not know God?**

It’s a great tragedy that so few people want to know the God who created them. People reject Him for several reasons.

**Unredeemed society lives in spiritual darkness**

Many haven’t heard about God, or His Son who made it possible for them to be saved and know the Father. That’s why our faithfulness to the Great Commission is so important.

**Mark 16:15-18**

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

We should take advantage of every opportunity to shine the light of the gospel of Christ into the darkness so people can hear and believe.

**Many people have no interest in knowing God**

**Romans 3:10-18**

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Saints. they love the world and all that it offers. The avalanche of information that confronts them daily keeps them from seeking the truth found in the Bible. This can even happen to believers if they become so distracted they stop nurturing the desire to know God more intimately.

**Some people are unwilling to pay the price required to know God more deeply**

There are Christians who think that salvation is all there is. They’re content to stay in a shallow relationship with God. They never grow spiritually because they’re unwilling to give the time and effort required to learn to know Him through His Word.

**Knowing God is Progressive**

The Lord is infinitely beyond us, but He’s revealed what He wants us to know about Himself in His Word, through His Son, and by His Spirit. At salvation we begin with very basic knowledge about Him, but that’s not where we should stay.

**2 Peter 3:17-18**

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Saints, every time we open His Word, God reveals more of His nature, attributes, and ways to us, so that little by little our understanding and love for Him will grow.

Right now we’re hampered by our fallen minds and bodies, but when we finally leave our earthly flesh and enter heaven, we’ll be perfect, pure, holy, and unhindered by sin. Then we’ll know our Savior as we never could while on earth.

**God Desires that we know Him**

Saints, the Lord created us to know, love, trust, obey, and serve Him. He is not at all impressed by the world’s value system or even by our religious activities, but only by our knowledge and understanding of Him and His glorious ways.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

**Hosea 6:6**

For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings

**John 14:9**

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

**What does it mean to know God?**

**Philippians 3:7-11**

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9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Saints, knowing facts about the Lord is not the same as knowing Him personally. Even seminary professors whose minds are filled with information may not know God personally.

**James 4:8**

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded

**Who is responsible for whether or not we’re known?**

In a human relationship, we are, because no one can know us unless we open up to that person. But this is not the case with God because He has complete and perfect knowledge of every person, whether they’re open to Him or not.

**John 10:26-30**

26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

**To know God, we have to open up**

He’s revealed Himself to us in His Word, but the only way we can perceive it is by opening ourselves in complete dependence to receive it. Every time we read what God says about Himself in His Word and believe and apply it, our understanding of Him deepens.

**Matthew 22:37**

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

**It’s in brokenness that we discover truths about God that we wouldn’t know in any other way**

In the trials, difficulties, and heartaches, we’re helpless and must fling ourselves on the Lord for support. We should never shun the hardships of life because God uses them to reveal Himself to us in a very personal way.

**Psalm 51:17**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise

**What’s involved in knowing God other than reading the Bible?**

**1. Receive Jesus Christ as Savior**

His death on the cross is the only thing that spans the gap between sinners and a relationship with holy God.

**2. Be interested in God’s interests**

His concerns and desires should be ours as well.

**How can we know God?**

The Lord is the One who takes the initiative by revealing Himself to us through His Word. It’s by His grace that we’re saved, and it’s also by grace that we learn to know Him in response to His self-revelation.

**Ephesians 2:1-2**

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

**We must read and listen to God’s Word and allow the Holy Spirit to interpret and apply it to our lives**

This requires meditation as we read and talk to the Lord about the passage.

**Observe the character and ways of God**

As you read, look for His characteristics and actions

**Be willing to accept His invitation and follow His commands**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Recognize God’s love for you and rejoice**

The praise and worship that follow will open your heart to Him even more.

**Let’s Pray**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**