THE BLESSINGS OF KNOWING GOD Text: Jn 17:3

- 1. There is no greater study than the study of God—

 and no great understanding than knowing God...

 —Bill Turner
 - · No Other Study Will Humble the Mind more than understanding His perfect Holiness
 - No Other Study Will **Expand** the Mind more as we realize His awesome power and glory
 - · No Other Study Will Strengthen the Mind more as we accept the Truth of God
 - No Other Study Will Bring more Comfort and Peace to the Mind than that of Knowing God
- 2. Even During the most difficult times—God says 'Be Still and Know that I Am God'

 Let's Look at Five Blessings of Knowing God

I. THE BLESSINGS OF KNOWING GOD

A. KNOWING GOD GIVES PURPOSE AND MEANING FOR LIFE

- 1. The deepest questions of the heart have to do with meaning and purpose...
 - a) Who am I? Where am I From? Why am I Here? Where am I Going?
 - b) These Existential questions are deep in the heart of every person who has ever lived
 - c) This is man's search for meaning
- 2. But Apart from God, man doesn't have answers to his own deepest questions
 - a) The mystery of life is an enigma that can't be solved by the limited, incomplete knowledge of mankind.
 - b) The Theories of Man are Always changing in a constant state of flux
 - c) They are weak and inadequate to answer all of life's questions
 - d) And they leave people confused, uncertain and without hope.
- 3. Knowing God Gives Us the Answers of Meaning and Purpose to Life
 - a) You're Not a random result of evolution...
 - b) You're Not an Accident, You're not a Mistake,
 - c) Your Not an invasive species
 - d) Your not just a Biological Life Form
- 4. You are created by God in His image, with a soul of immense value! Your soul is worth more than the whole world!
 - a) Knowing God Reveals There is Purpose and Meaning to All of Creation...
 - (1) To The Universe (Psalm 19:1)
 - (2) To The Earth (Isaiah 45:18)
 - (3) To All of Humanity (Psalm 8:3-5)
- 5. Knowing God Reveals There is Purpose and Meaning to All of History
 - a) History is Not Just a Series of Random, Meaningless Events (we have those too...)
 - b) History itself is moving toward a fulfillment of God's purpose...
 - c) An Apex Event of the Last Day (Daniel 12:1-3)
 - d) A Time when there will be no more time (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)
 - e) A Time when God Will separate the evil from the good...

We Read the end of the book and we know who wins!

B. KNOWING THE TRUTH OF GOD SETS US FREE

- 1. And Jesus said: You will know the truth and the Truth will set you free
 - a) He was speaking in spiritual terms (John 8:31-32)
- 2. Jesus Came to Set the Captives Free!
 - a) He Began His Ministry Quoting This Prophesy concerning Himself (Luke 4:16–21)
- 3. Because of Jesus' Atoning Sacrifice on the Cross... We Are Set Free...
 - a) Free From Condemnation (Rom 8:1) Whatever you've done in your past—It's Gone
 - b) Free From Power of Darkness (Colossians 1:12–13)
 - c) Free From the Penalty of Sin (Colossians 1:14)
 - d) Free From Fear (Hebrews 2:14–15)
 - e) We Are Free in Christ! (Romans 8:2; Gal 5:1)

C. KNOWING GOD ELEVATES AND EXPANDS OUR UNDERSTANDING TO HONOR AND PRAISE HIM IN WORSHIP

- 1. Those Who Do Not Know God worship what they do not know (Jn 4:19–22)
- 2. God wants us to Worship Him in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23–24)
- 3. Even the Pharisee Who Claimed to Know God Offered Vain Worship
 - a) They Replace the True Commandments of God with their Own Commandments
 - b) So Their Worship Was Not Only VAIN as in Worthless—But VAIN in it's arrogance!
 - c) Jesus called it out for what it was (Matthew 15:8-9)
- 4. True worship on earth reflects the True Worship Around the Throne of God
 - a) The Cherubim, the 24 Elders, the Living Creatures, all of the redeemed of all time
 - b) Praising God and Christ (Revelation 4:8–11) All Worship in Spirit and in Truth

D. KNOWING GOD RESUTS IN ETERNAL LIFE

- 1. This was the words of Christ speaking to the Father (John 17:3)
 - a) To Truly Know God is to have a Relationship with God
 - b) A Covenant Relationship with God, in which you know God and He knows You
 - c) This is the Relationship God desires with you!
 - d) Not just a temporary relationship, but an eternal one!
- 2. To Know God is to Realize You are created for a Beautiful Life with God!

(Ephesians 1:4–5)

- a) THE DECISION: 'Let Us make man in Our image' (Gen. 1:26)
- b) THE SETTING: Before Time Began 'Before the Foundation of the World'
- c) THE PURPOSE: He Planned 'us... as sons.'
- d) THE FORETHOUGHT: 'Predestined' Shows Intent, Design & Purpose
- e) THE MOTIVATION: 'In love' 'according to the kind intention of His will'
- f) THE PROCESS: by 'adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself'
- g) THE REASON: "in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1:2)
- 3. God created us for His glory and for our good!

 And Jesus Suffered to Sanctify us a People Unto Glory (Hebrews 2:10-11)

E. KNOWING GOD Gives Us Great HOPE, PEACE & STRENGTH

- 1. HOPE: (Jeremiah 29:11-13) Our Despair is Replaced by HOPE!
- 2. PEACE: (Psalm 46:1-3; 10) God Tells Us: 'Be Still and Know I Am God'
 - a) Even if there are wars and rumors of wars...
 - Famines, Earthquakes, Pandemics, Corruption, Treason in High Places...
 - b) Nothing that happens on earth can change the fact that God is on His throne
 There's a river that flows from the throne of God, that Makes Glad the City of God
 - c) Be Still and Know—God is in Control!
 - -Are You Suffering? —give it to God in Prayer
 - -Are You Distressed and Discouraged? -Give it to God in Prayer
 - -Do You have Guilt and Shame from your Past? -Give it to God in Prayer
 - -Do You Have Anxiety? Cast Your Anxieties on Him for He Cares for You!
 - -Do You Worry about the godless agenda darkening our land? Pray to God
 - d) (Philippians 4:6–7) And the Peace of God, which surpasses understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

3. STRENGTH:

- a) There was Corruption in the Time of Daniel (Daniel 11:32)
- b) There were Enemies of God in the Time of DAVID (1 Sam 17:45ff)
- c) NERO Was the Emperor of Rome When Paul was Imprisoned!
- d) But Paul says: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31-34)
 - (1) Think of a courtroom where we are on trial. (Jack Cottrell, Romans)
 - (2) God is the Judge who has already decided the case in our favor!
 - -Because Jesus Paid Our Debt in Full at the Cross!
 - -There is Now NO Condemnation to Those Who Are in Christ! (8:1).
 - (3) "Who can be against us?" doesn't mean we won't have any opposition in life
 - (4) It means None of our adversaries stand a chance against the One who is defending us. We do have enemies, but they are nothing compared with God.
 - (5) It doesn't matter who's against us—since no one can prevail against God!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We Are More Than Conquerers Through Him Who Loves Us
 - a. (Romans 8:35-39) Not Only is God With Us—He is For Us!
 - b. No Weapon Formed Against Us will Succeed
- 2. Those Who Know God—Know the Promises of God...
 - a) God is Faithful He Cannot Lie!
 - -He will not allow us to be tempted more than we can bear...
 - b) God is All-Powerful—He Will Provide!
 - -All things will work together for good for those who love the Lord...
 - c) God is Eternal—He Has Prepared an Eternal Dwelling Place for You!
 –A City not made with hands, an inheritance reserved in heaven for you!

God Did His Part, Sending His Son to Cross—but He Asks Us to Do Our Part:

> To Believe with Faith > To Repent > To Confess > To Baptized > Live Faithful to Him