Our Knowledge of God Text: Psalm 19

Bill Turner

Introduction:

- 1. In Our Series: Knowing God...
 - a. We've looked at 5 tragic results of Not Knowing God
 - b. We Realized 5 Blessings of Knowing God
- 2. But How Can We Know God?
 - a. "who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see..." (1 Tim 6:16)
- 3. God is Transcendent—far above human comprehension— (Job 11:7-8)
 - a. But He has revealed Himself for those who want to know Him

As Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." (Matt 11:25)

The Knowledge of God is Revealed to us in Three Ways

I. HIS CREATION

A. THE FACT

- 1. (Psalm 19:1-6) The Heavens Declare the Glory of God
 - a) The Majesty of God's Creation Shows His Handiwork and Design (Job 12:7–10)
- 2. We Can See God's Power and Attributes by what He has made (Rom. 1:20)
 - a) Our Sun is a massive continuously burning nuclear reaction
 - (1) To Help Visualize the Enormous Size of the Sun...
 - "It would take a jet plane flying from the Sun's surface at 500 miles per hour well over a month... to reach this star's center."
 - (2) The Nuclear Reaction of the Sun is so Violently that:
 - "to produce the observed energy being emitted from the solar surface, the equivalent of a hundred billion hydrogen bombs must be exploding every second in it's unfathomably hot, dense core." (Thomas Dubay, "Indescribable")
 - (3) The Core of the Sun is so Hot that if just the very tip of a needle was heated to the core temperature of our Sun, it would kill every life-form in a 500 mile radius (from GP to SF to Seattle and everyone in between.)
 - (4) <u>Just one Single Solar Flare</u>, an eruption of fiery hydrogen, sometimes reaching hundreds of thousands of miles above the surface of the Sun, could provide electrical power for the entire world for 100 million years. (Cottrell, God Ruler)
 - b) Even 93 Million Miles Away No One Escapes the Influence of the Sun
 - (1) Not Even Most Powerful People on Earth...
 - (2) In April, 1984 Ronald Reagan was President
 - (3) He was onboard Air Force One heading to a Meeting with the Premier of China
 - (4) Shortly into Flight, Reagan was talking with his Advisors the Lines went Dead.
 - (5) Reagan was informed that Air Force One had lost all Contact with World Below!

- (6) The Cause Was Not Man-Made It Was a Solar Eruption (Solar Flare)
- (7) A Nuclear Eruption 10 times bigger than Earth Spewing from Surface of Sun
- c) There Sat the Most Powerful Man in the World -
 - (1) Under Authority of a Far Greater Power the Sun
 - (2) Which Itself is Under a Far Greater Power & Authority—God Himself
- 3. God is Creator of the Cosmos and all that is in it (Isaiah 40:26; 45:12)

B. HIS ATTRIBUTES

- 1. HIS TRANSCENDENCE (Genesis 1:1)
 - a) In the beginning (time) God created (energy) the heavens (space) and earth (matter)
 - b) But Because God created Time, Energy, Space and Matter
 - c) God Transcends Time, space, energy and matter
 - d) God is spirit and is not bound by the physical laws of the universe
- 2. HIS ETERNAL NATURE (Ps 90:2)
- 3. HIS DIVINE POWER (Isaiah 40:25-26)
 - a) God spoke the universe into existence
 - b) God breathed out billions of galaxies and trillions of stars
- 4. HIS CREATIVE INTELLIGENCE (Heb 3:4)
 - a) The Universe did not appear by random accident
 It was created by the Intelligent Creative Power of God!
 - Everything outside of God is created by God.
 Every scientific discovery is the discovery of what God has already done.
 - c) The complexity of Life, of Biology, of DNA are all from God Intelligence cannot come from non-intelligence

C. OUR LIMITATIONS

- 1. And How Can We Know His Attributes?
 - -Because God created Human Beings in His own image!
 - a) He Gave you the Intelligence and Consciousness to understand...
 - b) He placed Eternity in your heart to Recognize there is more to life than this C.S. Lewis: "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy,
- then the most probable explanation is that we were made for a different world."
- 2. The Universe declares some of God's Divine Attributes,

but not all of His attributes

 a) The Cosmos declares the glory of God—but God's glory is far greater than just the cosmos

- 3. By Observing Creation Alone—Our Knowledge of God is Limited
 - a) We cannot know what God desires...
 - b) We can't Know how to search for God and Find God just by the Universe
 - c) God did not leave us without witness, but He sent us something more...

II. HIS REVELATION

A. THE FACT

1. We saw from Psalm 19 the Heavens Reveal the Glory of God...

We Also See His Word Reveals His Nature & Attributes (Psalm 19:7-11)

- a) Within this One Psalm We Find Two Ways God has Revealed Knowledge of Himself
- b) Through Creation and Through Revelation—God's Word
- 2. Now We Have a Lamp For Our Feet and a Light for our way—>God's Word:
 - a) MAKES US ALIVE: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul
 - b) GIVES US WISDOM: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple
 - c) GIVES US JOY: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart
 - d) GIVES US CLARITY: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes
 - e) HELPS US BE PURE: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever
 - f) HELPS US BE GODLY: The rules of the Lord are true, and righteous
 - g) OFFERS GREAT REWARD: in keeping them there is great reward.

B. HIS ATTRIBUTES

- 1. THE MIND OF GOD (Amos 4:13 NIV)
 - a) God reveals His Thoughts Toward Us (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJ)
- 2. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (Hebrews 4:12–13)
 - a) God's Word Reveals God Knows All Things
- 3. THE WISDOM OF GOD (Proverbs 2:1-6)
 - a) Not only was the Physical universe God breathed...
 but His inspired word is God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV)
 - b) God's Word is His Word in His Own Words...
- 4. THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENTS OF GOD (Revelation 22:18-19)

C. OUR LIMITATIONS

- 1. Without God's Word—There's Things We Would've Never Known...
 - a) That God Created Both the Visible & Invisible Universe (Colossians 1:16)
 - (1) The Natural and the Super-natural...
 - (2) The Physical Universe and the Spiritual Universe
 - b) That God Created Us in His Image (Gen. 1:26)
 - c) That There is Life After Death (Ecclesiastes 12:7)
 - d) That There Will Be a Judgement Day (Hebrews 9:27)
- 2. But We Ourselves Have Limitations in keeping God's Word
 - a) His word Guides us and helps us—but is like an x-ray of our soul
 - b) We are condemned by the righteous judgements of God
 - c) We Have All Sinned and we are all under the Law of Sin and Death
 A law since the garden of Eden... IF You Sin—You Die
- 3. So God Reveals Himself through His Creation... and Revelation...
 - -But also through His incarnation...

III. HIS INCARNATION

A. THE FACT

- 1. This was God's Mysterious Plan From Before Time Began (Isaiah 9:6)
- 2. The Word (Logos) became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1-3, 14)
- 3. When Phillip asked Jesus, Just Show us the Father...

Jesus said to him, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father; (John 14:9)

B. HIS ATTRIBUTES

1. HIS AUTHORITY

- a) Jesus taught with authority—no one ever spoke like Jesus
- b) Jesus said, All authority has been give unto me in heaven and earth
- c) Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away

2. HIS POWER

- a) He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cast out demons and raised the dead
- b) He showed His Power over Nature, over Disease, over Demons, over death
- c) His miracles turning back a broken and wounded world to the way it should be

3. HIS COMPASSION

- a) Jesus never attended a funeral he didn't break up!
- b) Quote...Jesus miracles signs

4. HIS SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE

- a) Jesus could've called down twelve legions of angels
 - (1) He Could've ended it all
 - (2) and cast satan and his angels into the abyss
- b) He did something even more amazing!
 - (1) He defeated Satan at the Cross and Saved His People by His blood!

C. OUR LIMITATIONS

- 1. We see Jesus in scripture
 - a) who is the exact image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15) in Human form!
- 2. But We Did Not See His Full Glory...
 - a) Jesus took 3 disciples to the top of a mountain, Peter, James and John
 - b) on that mountain a cloud of light enveloped them
 - c) Jesus glowed with luminescent light and spoke with Moses and Elijah
- 3. But We Weren't There—we didn't See His Glory—But We Will (1 John 3:2)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Once there was a time—when there was no time—and Jesus was there
 - a) He said, "Before Abraham was, I Am"
- B. The Time will come when Time will be no more—and you will be there
 - a) The word of God that spoke the universe into existence
 - b) The word that became flesh
 - c) Will by His Voice raise all the dead (John 5:28-29)