

HE THAT KNOWETH GOD

1Jno.4:6-8

Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this study we shall attempt to learn and emphasize several things about knowing God.
 - a. Of what it means to know God.
 - b. Of the absolute necessity of knowing God in order to obtain eternal life.
 - c. Of who it is that knows God.
 - d. Of what are the spiritual characteristics of the one who knows God.
 - e. Of what the one who knows God habitually does.
2. First read related passages on knowing God, 1Jno.2:3-6; 4:6-8; 5:20; Jno.17:3.

II. DISCUSSION

A. CONSIDER WHAT IT MEANS TO KNOW AND THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF KNOWING GOD.

1. "To know" Lit. to come to know, recognize, realize, understand or to understand fully.
2. In the N.T. "know" (ginosko) frequently indicates a relation between the person knowing and the object known; in this respect, what is known is of value or importance to the one who knows, and hence the establishment of the relationship being considered in knowing, e.g., especially of knowing God and being known of God, as in 1Cor.8:3; Gal.4:9, where knowing God, resulting in being known of God suggests approval and bears the meaning "to be approved;" so in 2Tim.2:19; Jno.10:14,27.
 - a. 1Cor.8:3: "But if any man love God, the same is known of him."
 - b. Gal.4:9: "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God..."
 - c. 2Tim.2:19: "...The Lord knoweth them that are his..."
 - d. Jno.10:14: "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

- e. Jno.10:27: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
- 3. To **know** God is to have fellowship with him.
 - a. To have fellowship with God one must walk in the light, as he is in the light, not in darkness, i.e., in sin. Cf. 1Jno.1:6.
 - b. Walking in the light and having fellowship with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ, is made possible through what the Apostles of Jesus Christ had seen, heard and have declared unto us, 1Jno.1:1-3,5-9; 1Jno.2:24,25.
- 4. Thus God is **known** through or in the incarnate Word of Life, as he was heard, looked upon, handled by those who lived with him, and or witnessed the risen Lord, and were called and sent, as Spirit-filled and Spirit-guided Apostles, with the gospel of Christ, which is God’s power unto salvation to the believer.
 - a. Jesus said, “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,”Mt.11:27.
- 5. 1Jno.2:3-6 sums it up for us – It’s the crown and consummation of **knowing** the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ.
- 6. 1Jno.3:6: “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither **known** him.”
 - a. That is: The one who abides in (keeps on abiding in) him does not practice sin.
 - b. The one who does practice sin, or keeps on living a life of sin, does not see him or **know** him – he no longer sees (enjoys or **knows**) him, nor (recognizes) him in his life – he no longer has fellowship with God.
 - c. See Vv.7-10 which follow.
- 7. Jno.17:3 declares the absolute necessity of **knowing** God.
 - a. According to Jno.17:3, knowing the Father and the Son is the means, the method, and the manner by which eternal life is obtained.
 - b. The knowledge of God as manifested in Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life, is the first requisite to salvation and life eternal.
 - c. Where there is this knowledge there is understanding, abiding faith, continued submission, and the promise and hope of eternal life.

- d. Without this there is neither present salvation nor hope of future salvation.
- e. It is only through the Son that men **know** and see the Father, Jno.14:6-10.
- f. Only as one comes to the true knowledge of the Father and of his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he sent into the world to provide redemption, is eternal life to be realized.
 - (1) Knowledge of both is necessary to obtain eternal life.
 - (2) But, only as one comes to **know** Jesus Christ is a knowledge of the Father possible. Cf. Mt.11:27; 2Pet.1:1-4; 1Pet.1:2-5,9; Jno.3:16; 5:24,26; 6:47,54; 1Jno.5:11,12.
- g. The tense of the verb “should (might) know” in Jno.17:3 indicates “should keep on knowing,” and thus involves continuous conformity to the will of the Lord to the end of one’s life after which eternal life, in actuality, will be bestowed.
- h. In other words, the tense of the verb “should know” marks continuance, progress, and not a perfect and past apprehension gained once for all. Cf. 1Jno.2:24,25; Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25; Mk.10:28-30; Phil.3:12-14.
- i. Knowledge of the Son comes only through the gospel of Christ, which is God’s power unto salvation to the believer, preached to the world and recorded in the N.T. by the Apostles of Christ, Mk.16:15,16; Eph.3:1-5; 2Th.1:6-10; Heb.5:8,9.
- j. As to the promise of future possession of eternal life which is in the Son, we may **presently** have absolute knowledge, 1Jno.2:24,25; Tit.1:2.
- k. At the same time, this life is regarded as future in its realization and actual possession. Cf. Jno.4:14,36; 6:27,40; 12:25; Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25.
- l. Therefore, “should now” of Jno.17:3 is not merely an acquaintance with facts as external, nor an intellectual conviction of their reality, as to their existence (which even an atheist might have).
 - (1) But is an appropriation of them (submission to them) as an influencing power into the very being of him who “knows” them.

- (2) “Knowledge” in this sense is faith perfected (based on evidence); and in turn it passes at last into sight. Cf. 1Jno.3:1,2; Rom.8:16-18,24,25.

B. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING BIBLE TRUTHS ABOUT THE PERSON WHO KNOWS GOD.

1. He or she is a person who is or stands born (begotten) of God, **1Jno.4:7b**, “...everyone that loveth is born (begotten) of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

- a. Love, in this passage, has reference to one’s love of the brethren in Christ. See 1Jno.3:14-18; 4:11,12; 4:20-5:2.
- b. Love, in this passage, is a sign and proof of the new birth, or of one having been born again, or begotten of God, and not a condition precedent to it, or how one is born again.
- c. John is here declaring one of the ways by which the claim of having been born again, or begotten of God, and presently being in fellowship with God, and **knowing** God, may be tested – it overrides any false claim of knowing or having fellowship with God!
- d. “Knoweth” – He knows and keeps on knowing; stands in a knowing relationship with God.
- e. On the other hand, “He that loveth not”; that is, He that does not love (practice love) does not know (is without acquaintance with, or fellowship with) God.
- f. “Knoweth not” – is aorist active indicative, has not **once** known, hence, has **never** known God.

(1) The idea is that one who **claims** to be a child of God (to have been begotten of God or born again), but does not, and has not, felt the love which exists between true children of God, demonstrates the fact that he not only does not know God, he has never known God – was thus never genuinely converted. See 1Jno.1:6; 3:6-10.

g. Cf. 1Jno.2:29; 1Jno.3:7-10; 5:4.

2. He or she is a person who loves both God and those begotten of God, or the brethren in Christ, 1Jno.4:7,8,11,12,20,21; 5:1-3; Cf. Jno.13:34,35; Gal.6:10

3. He or she is a person who keeps the commandments of the Lord, is in him, abides in him, and walks as he walked, 1Jno.2:3-6. Cf. 1Jno.1:6,7.
 - a. V.5: “hereby (by this) know we that we are **in him**” – indicates a relationship of the most intimate nature – the true fellowship of God and with God – or a summary of all the blessings available from God through Jesus Christ.
 - b. V.6 reveals how one demonstrates the soundness or the truth of one’s claim and the validity of his profession of abiding in him and being in fellowship with him. Cf. 1Jno.1:6,7; 3:6,24; 4:16b; 5:3.
4. He or she is a person who loves and will open hand and heart to brethren in Christ who are legitimate objects of charity, 1Jno.3:16-19; Cf. Ac.2:44,45; 4:34,35; 6:1-3; 11:27-30; 20:33-35; 2Cor.8:1-5; Rom.12:13; Eph.4:28; See 2Th.3:7-10.
5. He or she is a person who will make every effort to perfect self even as the Father in heaven is perfect, Mt.5:43-48. Cf. 2Tim.3:16,17.
6. He or she is a person who will hear the Apostles of Jesus Christ, 1Jno.4:4-6. Cf. Mt.16:19; 18:18; 28:18-20; 2Cor.5:17-20; Eph.3:1-5.
7. He or she is a person who has genuine hope of eternal life and patiently waits for it, Jno.17:3; Cf. Jno.3:16-18,36; 1Jno.2:24,25; 5:11,12; Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Friend, are you a person who knows God?
2. Not unless you have by faith obeyed the glorious gospel of the blessed God, stand born or begotten of God. 1Tim.1:11; Rom.1:16,17; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10; Mk.16:15,16; 1Pet.1:22-25; Heb.2:1-3.