

Knowing God
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Introduction: There is a big difference between knowing there is a God and in knowing God.

- A. Why is atheism becoming more prevalent in our society?
 - 1. We can know there is a God. **(Rom 1:20)**
 - 2. Men do not *know the one true God* and therefore choose to live for themselves. Men do not know they can trust and depend upon God!
 - 3. The nature of God is a powerful force to draw men to Him. **(Isa 40:28-31)**
- B. How can we better tell others about the nature of the one true God?
 - 1. Each of us as Christians must become imitators of God. **(Eph 5:1-4)**
 - 2. If I wanted to teach others about God's forgiving nature, His kindness and His mercy, would others see that in me?

I. Knowing God brings us to a poverty of Spirit

- A. When we see the power, wisdom and holiness of God we should despise ourselves. **(Psa 100:3; Mt 5:3)**
 - 1. The word used here (ptochos), may be translated "abject poverty." It reflects one who is virtually destitute, or in "imminent danger of real starvation."
 - 2. Here Jesus is describing poverty of *spirit*.
 - a. We must see our need of and dependence upon God. **(Jn 15:5)**
 - b. Only when we see our deep poverty and believe it will God be able to guide us. This is the first step in pleasing God! **(Psa 51:17)**
 - c. When we have this kind of spirit we will realize that we cannot impress God! This will keep us from the sin of pride. **(Isa 64:6)**
- B. Our own sin in the presence of God's holiness must break us. **(Mt 5:4)**
 - 1. The word mourn (pentheo) means "to bewail, lament, mourn for."
 - 2. This word described the tears of righteous. **(Lk 6:21)**
 - 3. When we mourn over our sins. **(2 Cor 7:10; Joel 2:12-13)**
 - 4. When was the last time you grieved over your sins? Sadly pride has caused many to become hard hearted. **(Jas 4:8-10)**
 - 5. This will drastically alter how we treat others who hurt us!

II. Knowing God leads us to a separation from this world

- A. Jesus plainly showed His disciples that this world is dominated by Satan. **(Jn 12:31; 14:30)**
 - 1. When you come to know God you have a different way of thinking and of desiring. **(1 Jn 2:14-15)**
 - 2. Have you ever been in the company of people talking about things that you have no interest in or even dislike?

3. Knowing God will make you a stranger and a pilgrim in this world!
(**Heb 11:13-16**)
- B. Because we know God we have great confidence in the life to come!
 1. We can take the loss of things that the world says we cannot lose and be happy.
 2. We can have a peace and contentment that does not depend upon what happens to us! (**Jn 16:32-33**)
 3. Our simple delight and power is found in knowing God. (**Phil 3:7-8**)
 4. There is a great peace we find when we surrender the things of this world!

III. We spend our lives better knowing God

- A. A foundational purpose in Bible study is to learn more about the character of God and become more like Him. (**Rom 8:29**)
 1. This should be at the root of all of our Bible study. (**Rom 15:4**)
 2. When I consider that the God who has done so much on my behalf has spoken, His word will never become boring. (**1 Pt 2:1-3**)
- B. God also helps us to know Him better through tests.
 1. Here is where we should tremble and be very humble. (**Deut 8:2-5**)
 2. Consider the unimaginable test of Job. Was this for Job's good?
(**Job 42:5-6**)
 3. What might our God allow us to endure so that He might be glorified?

IV. Things which reveal who really knows God

- A. How you treat other people.
 1. How do we treat our brothers in Christ? (**1 Jn 4:19-21**)
 2. The better we know God we more quickly let God take vengeance and seek to forgive others. (**Rom 12:19**)
- B. How we respond to false doctrine. (**Deut 13:1-3; Jer 5:3-4**)
 1. When we put the praise of men above the praise of God then we will be silent when the gospel is perverted. (**Gal 1:9-10**)
 2. What has God said about those who would change His words?
- C. How we teach and live with our children.
 1. How do you think Solomon viewed the last words of his father David?
(**1 Chron 28:9**)
 2. Our children will know when we mean it. Also we can reflect God's glory in our lives for the great benefit of our children.

Conclusion: Lets us draw closer to God and learn more of His ways!