

Lesson 1 – Diligently Seeking God
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Introduction: Every man must choose and then build the foundation for his life.

- A. Jesus urged all to carefully and with much effort build a foundation. **(Lk 6:48-49)**
 - 1. A foundation is that *which you begin* and which *all other things are built upon*.
 - 2. A foundation is strong when it is built upon reality. Begin with God!
- B. The challenge that every man must face is whether God will be their foundation.
 - 1. Man is made with a desire to seek and find God. **(Acts 17:27-28; Ecc 3:11)**
 - 2. It does not take much thought for man to *realize his need of God*.
 - 3. Is there a God? Is Jesus the Son of God? This is the start of your foundation.

I. 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. Men find God by seeking Him and then keep seeking Him. **(Heb 11:6)**
 - 1. What is the difference between your knowledge of “who” a coach is and the knowledge of the quarterback on the team or of the coach’s wife?
 - 2. What happens in a relationship when *one stops seeking?*
- C. God’s people by design will show forth praise to God. **(Psa 51:15; 79:13)**
 - 1. Praise from the lips is *natural and abundant*.
 - 2. A life that reflects God’s will is *a greater praise*. **(Phil 1:10-11)**
 - 3. Each of us as Christians must become imitators of God. **(Eph 5:1-4)**
 - 4. If I wanted to teach others about God’s forgiving nature, His kindness and His mercy, *would others see that in me?*

II. The knowledge of God changes our hearts

- 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. Jesus is describing poverty of *spirit*. We completely depend on God. **(Jn 15:5)**
 - 3. Only when *we see our deep poverty* will God be able to guide us. This is the first step in pleasing God! **(Psa 51:10-11, 17)**
 - 4. When we have this kind of spirit we will realize that we cannot impress God!
- 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!

III. 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. Knowing God produces a different way of thinking and 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 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!

IV. We need a heart that is continually seeking to know more about God

A. Look carefully at the prayer of David. (**Ps 63:1-8**)

1. Consider the expressions: “thirsts,” “longs,” “looked,” and “meditate.”
2. True knowledge must be pursued and digested. A superficial knowledge of God is no stopping place!
3. Job considered His ordeal and going through a struggle of thinking to result in a better understanding of God! (**Job 42:5-6**)
4. It was in the times of suffering and uncertainty that David sought and gained a better understanding of God. (**Psa 42:1-3**)

B. Moses wanted more knowledge of the nature of God! (**Ex 33:12-18**)

1. God was pleased when Moses asked to see His glory!
2. Over and over Moses reminded the people of the nature of the true God! (**Deut 4:39; 7:9**)

C. Jesus summed up His entire work with the apostles this way. (**Jn 17:1-3**)

1. The apostles had a great advantage in knowing God because they came to know Jesus! (**Jn 14:6-9**)
2. “God is a person, and in the deep of His mighty nature He thinks, wills, enjoys, feels, loves, desires and suffers as any other person may.”
3. If you were to introduce God to another person, what would you say?

D. What more can we know? Consider (**Eph 3:14-21**)

1. Why does Paul use terms like “width,” “breath,” and “height.”
2. It is exciting to know that there is so much more to learn!

Conclusion: What is your foundation like?