

That We Might Know Him

by Charles S. Price

The sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking wisdom from above and surrendering our own wisdom in order to know God and experience a deeper relationship with Him.

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Colossians 2:2, James 1:5

Topics: "Intimacy With God", "Divine Revelation"

Description

Charles S. Price emphasizes the glorious truth that we can commune directly with God, highlighting the possibility and privilege of coming into the Presence of the Lord, talking with Him, and receiving divine wisdom and guidance. He contrasts the antagonism between the spirit of the world and the Spirit of the Lord, pointing out the failure of mankind in trusting in their own wisdom and righteousness. Price stresses the need for a divine revelation to truly know God and experience the fullness of Christian life, calling for a return to seeking wisdom from above and acknowledging the insufficiency of man's wisdom.

Transcript

IF there is one thing the Bible teaches, without any evasion or ambiguity whatsoever, it is the glorious truth that we can commune directly with God. Perhaps herein I have implied that some things are ambiguous. I intended that you should draw such inference, for one cannot read the Word of the Lord without becoming convinced of that truth. There are certain things about which the most sincere and deeply spiritual Biblical scholars disagree. There are other things that are put in language so clear and so plain that we would have to distort the Scriptures and thwart the purpose of the Holy Spirit were we to place on them any other interpretation than the one which is directly stated.

The fact of the possibility of the communion of man with God is-not only stated by the apostle Paul, but were you to take away the possibility, then the whole of the Pauline Epistles would collapse and be robbed of their meaning. What a glorious thing it is that you and I, poor mortals, should be able, not only to come into the Presence of the Lord, but actually to talk with Him. We can hear the things He has to say and, in the light which streams from the Throne divine, we can see things which the human mind and heart can receive in no other way.

There is a tremendous antagonism between the spirit of the world and the Spirit of the Lord! The minute one begins to talk about "divine revelation" or begins to affirm that the Lord said this" or led us to "do that," immediately, the wisdom of man rises up in its antagonistic incredulity and declares such things are impossible. In the second chapter of Paul's Epistle to the church at Corinth, this antagonism between the

Spirit of the Lord and the spirit of the world is very clearly revealed.

True wisdom is not based so much on how' much a man knows, as it is on what he knows! I know a lot of wise men who are very foolish and ignorant, in spite of their asserted wisdom. One of the difficulties with the human race is that it has ever sought knowledge without seeking counsel of the Lord. The fall of man came because our forefathers sought knowledge apart and separate from God. They wanted to eat from the tree of knowledge; and, because of their desire to understand knowledge apart from God, the whole creation was plunged into the gloom of the Fall and the darkness of despair.

All heathenism had its origin in the desire of men to know apart from God. Refusing to accept the wisdom which came from above, they fashioned gods of their own creation who represented human desires and fulfilled human purposes. It was in knowledge that the Greeks sought their glory; and, disdainful of the wisdom which comes from heaven, they followed after human philosophies, most of which were formed after the fashion of human understanding and apart from the revelation of the Lord.

God's Wisdom

Yet, when Jesus came, He Who is the Wisdom of God, He Who is the Word of God made flesh both Jew and Gentile combined their forces to reject Him and to repudiate the idea of a supernatural revelation. In the natural man, we find not only the heart alienated from God, but the mind is also darkened. Jesus was not only the Revelator of God, but He is the One - the Only One - through Whom human communion is possible with the Divine Father; and it is impossible to understand the Lord, or to know Him aright, unless the darkened mind be illumined by a direct act of the Light of the world Himself!

Just think of it, my friends! Is it not the marvel of marvels and the wonders of wonders that we humans can come into the Eternal Presence and commune with God even as a child communes with its earthly father? We can carry on a spiritual conversation which will lift us above every doubt and fear and place us in the realms that are so far above the world that the difficulties and troubles which beset worldly people lose their power over heart and mind and life. This is not an

idle dream. It is the clear, lucid statement of the inspired Word; and it is inside the boundaries of experience for thousands of people on the face of the earth today.

Paul was not the "discoverer" of this great, spiritual reality, but he was a participant! Jesus Himself told us of the glorious possibility of heart communion with God, and Paul walked right into the heart of the experience without any equivocation or any doubt or fear whatever. In his marvelous conversion, in the dirt and dust of the Damascus Road, he talked to God and God talked to him. From that time on, the whole question was settled and he accepted it as a matter of fact.

Were he living in these terrible days of unbelief and apostasy, I presume he would marvel at the multitudes who belong to the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and who profess His Name but who repudiate the possibility of this glorious privilege and heap ridicule upon the people who profess that they hear the Father's voice.

The colossal failure of the world in this present evil day is to be attributed to the trust of man in his own righteousness and his reliance upon his own wisdom. What a mess he has made of things! To what abysmal depths he has sunk as he has attempted to establish a government in which God is put on the coin, but seldom found in the heart. How tragic it is for us to know that in spite of the river of tears and the

Niagara of sorrows and of heartaches, mankind still insists on trusting in its own wisdom, and leaning upon its own righteousness. "Why not go to God," thunders Paul, "Why not go for wisdom to the Throne of Infinite Wisdom; and why not trust for righteousness and salvation in the merits of the Saviour!"

In the letter to the Corinthian church, Paul deals with the futility of man's wisdom; and in his letter to the Romans, he upsets the generally accepted belief in the efficacy of man's own righteousness. However, the iniquities of man have never been able to rob the saint of God of his glorious privilege!

Now, today, you who are a child of God can go directly to the Father's Throne. You need no other mediator than Jesus Who died your death on Calvary's rugged tree! You need no other Door through which to walk and stand as a son before your Heavenly Father!

If you lack wisdom, you can ask of God and He will impart that wisdom to you who have ears to hear, but when the noise, the din and the hubbub of a war-torn world is sounding in our ears and we hear nothing but human philosophies with no time to listen to other than platitudes of human wisdom, how can we catch the whisper of the Voice Divine? Mankind has ever been like that. We will listen to the voices from beneath Dumbarton Oaks and forget the Voice that cried beneath the trees of Beth- page! We try to manufacture peace around a peace-table, for getting meanwhile that the Prince of Peace has been appointed by the Creator of the whole Universe and we can but pray that the Day is not far away when we shall reign with Him in righteousness and equity over a world at last at peace.

Until Shiloh Come

Until the coming of Jesus, the whole truth of God was a hidden mystery. That being so, then only a spiritual revelation can bring to light the spiritual mystery! No wonder Paul said that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. How do you think that you can know them? Merely by a study of the Bible? I am not deprecating that, for I believe we should give a lot of time and attention to the old Book; but even in that regard I cannot forget that our Lord Himself said, "Search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have Eternal Life and they are they which testify of Me, and you will not come to me that you might have Life."

We must of necessity have a divine revelation. I preached from the Old Book for fifteen years but never knew Christ as I know Him today. I passed examinations. I studied under competent teachers. I listened to the greatest of the great and assimilated all of human wisdom that my mind could apprehend and my reason could grasp; but the greatest day of my life was when I made the discovery that these things are not primarily apprehended by the application of one's mind and brain to study. Rather do they come like a flood light of glory, even as the sun bursts over the Eastern horizon and reveals the beauty of a world which has been shrouded in darkness. You will have to make that discovery, my friend, and until you do, you are missing so much of the joy and of the glory of Christian experience.

Another Reformation

Not so very long ago I was taken to task by a woman who thought that I was casting aspersions upon the Word of the Lord by my declaration that one needed more than Bible study to know God. The old Jews prided themselves on their attachment to the Word and more than one of them could have looked into the eyes of Jesus and said, "All these things have I kept from my youth up . . ." More than one of them could have been like Paul, the strictest of the sect of the Pharisees, living up to the letter of the law, and yet how much they missed.

The letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive. I will even go so far as to say that the letter itself is dead

unless it be illumined by the Spirit. No man can read the Bible aright until to him it is energized and illuminated, made active and vital by the power of the Holy Ghost. To conform to the standards of conduct of the Bible in external life is not sufficient in this dispensation of grace. The external evidences of this dispensation are only the result of that internal revelation which not only transforms what a man does, but literally transforms the man himself.

The Christ of Calvary not only atoned for your sin, my friend, but He is the Door through which you may enter the most beautiful Garden your spiritual eyes have ever beheld a place of communion with the Father! There God talks with you and you talk with God!

We need another Reformation! The marvelous revelation which came to Martin Luther, as he climbed St. Peter's steps of yore, rang around the world and is generally accepted today by our Protestant churches. Fundamentally, it was the gospel of the insufficiency of man's righteousness. It was the glory of the story that "the just shall live by faith!" Our salvation has been taken out of the realm of conduct and placed where it belongs on the Cross of Calvary!

In the days of the Reformation. Christendom began to accept, as a general rule, the insufficiency of man's righteousness; but, methinks it did not go far enough! When you begin to talk about the insufficiency of man's wisdom, that is another story. They refused to recognize that; but claimed that by concentration of thought and application of mind they could formulate the doctrines and dogmas of the Church. No wonder the Church is so impotent! No wonder we have such an evident lack of power, for we have not been willing in all of our ways to acknowledge Him; but have been wont to lean hard upon our own understanding!

The doorway through which the Church went to the Philadelphia era was the door of "the acknowledgment of the righteousness of Jesus Christ." People were willing to put all of their hope of salvation and their faith in God on the atoning work of Jesus on Calvary's Cross; but when that same Church came to the place where it was called upon to surrender its own wisdom and look to the Lord for the wisdom which comes from above, it was not willing to do so,

and went through the doorway which led from the age of Philadelphia to the Laodicean darkness. It largely repudiated the Holy Spirit, except as a doctrine, and insisted upon putting the ministry of the Holy Ghost into creed instead of into experience.

As for me, the thought of losing this privilege of communing with God is anathema to my soul! It is far more than formal prayer. It is more than the establishment of a ritualistic family altar. This is more than devoting a certain hour in the day to the duty of "waiting upon the Lord." It is a stream which flows from the throne divine. This is a walk of fellowship; travelling along spiritually adventurous highways into realms of glory and

of grace that we could reach in no other way. This walk of fellowship with God answers the questions of life and solves its problems to the perfect satisfaction of every troubled heart. It is this way and no other way!

There can be no other way, for this is God's way! Regardless of the difficulties, the cares and the sorrows, no matter how complex the problems and how difficult the questions, the Spirit will reveal the Way; and the wisdom of God will be given, as the Lord reveals Himself unto you.

Wisdom from above is the need of the hour! It is in truth the message for this day. That is what Paul meant when he said he was not preaching with man's wisdom. No wonder he came to them in fear and in trembling lest his super-education get in the way of the revelation of the Holy Spirit. When one's journey toward God is motivated alone by the wisdom of man, his experience is dependent entirely upon that limited source. However, when one is enlightened by the wisdom which comes down from above and receives an experience in conversion as the result of a divine illumination, that glorious experience is not only perpetuated but grows in the light that streams from the throne of God.

A very despondent lady came to me just a few days ago, in the midst of her bewilderment and perplexity, asking for advice. Regretfully she said "I have been here, there, and everywhere in my search for help, and one of my friends advised me to come to you." I told her frankly that I could not help her; that there was not a man on the face of the earth who could! However, I must testify that she went from the house happier than she had been in all her life before. She was as free in her spirit as a bird on the wing! It was not I who helped her other than to the place where help can be found!

There was not a single fault to find with what she believed; but as we talked, the Spirit revealed to my heart the condition of her mind and experience and so I interrupted her and said, "That is your trouble, my sister, you have been a believer, but not a receiver!" Then I told her of the fullness of God and we walked with Paul through those superlative description adjectives in which he emphasizes the all-sufficiency more than enough; to meet every need of body, of soul, and of spirit. As I led her into the Presence Divine and bade her "Take take take; take and take," like a flower opening its petals to receive the kiss of the morning sun, she then commenced to drink in the fullness of the Presence divine! Therein is the victory of the Christian! That is the answer to your question. It is the solution to your problems and is your sanctification. There is wisdom all you need for Christ is all and in all! Oh that we might see and know experimentally that when Jesus died to become the Saviour, He became our Elder Brother, and we are members of God's family. Should we not, therefore, walk and talk, think and act as beloved children of our Heavenly Father!

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/charles-s-price/that-we-might-know-him/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net