

Study Notes - the Knowledge of God

by Walter Beuttler

The sermon emphasizes the importance of acquiring a personal knowledge of God through various means, which brings life, transforms us, and changes our values.

Scripture: Genesis 3:8, Hosea 6:6, John 17:3, Colossians 1:9, 2 Peter 3:18

Topics: "Knowing God", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

Walter Beuttler preaches on the importance of having a personal knowledge of God, not just information about Him, as seen in the desires of Christ, Moses, and God Himself. This knowledge brings life, transformation, blessings, and influence with God, changing values, methods, and attitudes. God grieves over man's lack of this knowledge and desires us to grow in it through revelation, His Word, the Spirit, teaching, and relationship.

Transcript

A. INTRODUCTION

1. What is meant by "The Knowledge of God?" Not mere information about God, but a personal knowledge of God, Gen. 3:8; James 2:23; Deut. 34:10

2. Who in the Bible desires such knowledge?

(1) Christ prayed "that they might know thee," John 17:3

(2) Moses prayed, "That I might know thee," Ex. 33:13

(3) God desires for man to know Him, Hos. 6:6

3. What is the practical value of this knowledge?

(1) It is life, John 17:3

(2) It transforms, 2 Pet. 2:20; Jer. 22:16; Isa. 33:14-16

(3) It changes values, Luke 16:15; Matt. 23:23; 6:33

(4) It brings blessing, Isa. 64:4-5; 1 Cor. 2:9-10

(5) It changes methods, Isa. 55:8-9; Joshua 6:1-20; 1 Sam. 16:6-13; 17:38-40; 1 Cor. 1:26-29

(6) It brings influence with God, Jer. 15:1; Gen. 18:22-32; Num. 14:11-20

4. Point out God's attitude toward this knowledge:

(1) God grieves over man's lack of it, Jer. 9:3; Hosea 4:1; Heb. 3:7-10

(2) We are to increase in it, Col. 1:9-10

(3) We increase by growth, 2 Pet. 3:18; Mark 4:26-28; John 21:18-19

(4) We are to continue growing, Hosea 6:1-3

5. Point out what our attitude toward the knowledge of God should be:

(1) It should be highly valued, Prov. 2:1-5

(2) It should be earnestly desired, Prov. 2:1-5

(3) It should be diligently sought, Prov. 2:1-5; Heb. 11:6; Luke 11:9-10

(4) We should rejoice in it, Jer. 9:23-24

6. By what means may the knowledge of God be acquired?

(1) By revelation, Matt. 11:25-26

(2) By the Word, 1 Pet. 2:1-2

(3) By the Spirit, Eph. 1:17-18; 1 Cor. 2:9-16; 1 John 2:27

(4) By teaching, 2 Chron. 30:22; 1 Cor. 12:28; John 5:39-

44; Matt. 13:13-15; John 8:43, 47

(5) By relationship, Psa. 25:14; Gen. 17:1; 2 Kings 23:3; Gen. 5:22, 24

B. THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF GOD

1. Describe this spiritual nature:

(1) God is a Spirit, John 4:24

(2) God does not have a material body, Luke 24:39

(3) God is a living Spirit, 1 Thess. 1:9

(4) God is invisible, Col. 1:15

(5) God has nevertheless a form, Num. 12:8; Matt. 18:10; Ex. 33:21-23; Rev. 5:1-7

2. Point out essential attributes of God:

- (1) God is self-existent, Ex. 3:14
- (2) God is omnipresent, Jer. 23:24; Matt. 6:6
- (3) God is omniscient, 1 John 3:20
- (4) God is omnipotent, Jer. 32:27
- (5) God is eternal, Isa. 57:15
- (6) God is immutable, Num. 23:19
- (7) God is holy, Isa. 6:1-7

3. Wherein does the manifest presence of God differ from His omnipresence? In that the unseen and unperceived presence of God is manifested to be perceived by the senses of man, Gen. 18:20-21; Gen. 18:1-2, 33; 1 Sam. 3:10; John 14:21

4. Give examples of the possibility of spirit beings manifested to the senses of man:

- (1) To the sense of sight, Ex. 3:2; Luke 3:21-22; Acts 2:3
- (2) To the sense of touch, Gen. 19:1, 16; Dan. 10:10; Acts 12:23
- (3) To the sense of sound, Gen. 3:8 (R.V.) ; 2 Kings 7:6; Acts 2:2

5. Note man's diverse behaviour toward the manifest presence of God:

- (1) Some hide, Gen. 3:8 -- Others seek, 2 Chron. 26:5
- (2) Some walk out, Gen. 4:16 -- Others draw near, Gen. 18:22-23
- (3) Some flee from it, Jonah 1:3 -- Others run to it, S. S. 1:4
- (4) Some are troubled, Job 23:14-16 -- Others rejoice, 2 Sam. 6:14
- (5) Some displace His presence, Hos. 2:5-13; 5:6 -- Others make a place for it, 1 Chron. 15:1

6. Note how man's condition affects God's attitude in relation to His presence:

- (1) Some are kept at a distance, Ex. 19:12, 21-24 -- Others are bidden to draw near, Ex. 24:12-18
- (2) Some are cast out from it, Jer. 23:39 -- Others may remain in it, Psa. 140:13
- (3) To some He comes, Ex. 19:9 -- From others He goes, Ezek. 9:3, 10:18, 11:23

7. To what is the presence of God likened?

- (1) A hiding place, Psa. 31:19-20
- (2) A delight, Psa. 16:11
- (3) A refreshing, Acts 3:19

(4) Bread, Luke 6:3-4

(5) Rest, Ex. 33:14

(6) A home, Psa. 15

C. GOD'S FACULTIES OF COMMUNICATION

1. Which faculty is seen in Psa. 94:9a? -- Hearing

(1) God hears what we say, Num. 12:1-3

(2) God hears prayer, Lam. 3:53-57

2. Which faculty is seen in Psa. 94:9b? -- Sight

(1) God sees man's ways, Prov. 5:21, 15:3

(2) God sees man's heart, 2 Chron. 16:9

3. Which faculty is seen in Gen. 8:21? -- Smell

(1) God discerns true worship, Rev. 5:8

(2) God discerns pseudo-worship, Isa. 1:11-17

4. Which faculty is seen in Jer. 1:9? -- Touch

(1) The angel touched Elijah, 1 Kings 19:5-7

(2) The angel touched Jacob, Gen. 32:25, 32

5. Which faculty is seen in Heb. 1:1-2? -- Speech

(1) God speaks through His Word, Heb. 1:1

(2) God speaks by His Spirit, Acts 8:29

D. THE EMOTIONAL NATURE OF GOD

1. Which emotion is seen in Psa. 7:11? -- Anger

(1) God was angry with Miriam, Num. 12:9-10

(2) God was angry with Moses, Deut. 3:23-28

2. Which emotion is seen in Psa. 149:4? -- Pleasure

(1) God is pleased when we fear Him, Psa. 147:10-11

(2) God is pleased when we please Him, Prov. 16:7

3. Which emotion is seen in Gen. 6:6b? -- Grief

(1) God grieves over the wickedness of man's heart, Gen. 6:6-7

(2) God grieves over man's ignorance of His ways, Heb. 3:10

4. Which emotion is seen in Neh. 8:10? -- Joy

(1) God rejoices over a repentant sinner, Luke 15:10

(2) God rejoices when His people walk in His ways, Zeph.

3:17

5. Which emotion is seen in Psa. 5:5? -- Hate

(1) God hates pride, lying and unrighteousness, Prov. 6:16-19, 8:13

(2) God hates the worship of the unjust and unrighteous, Amos 5:21-23

6. Which emotion is seen in 1 John 4:8-10? -- Love

(1) God's love is seen in the giving of His son, 1 John 4:9-10

(2) God's love is seen in His kindness to man, 2 Sam. 9:9-13

7. Which emotion is seen in Ex. 34:14? -- Jealousy

(1) God is jealous over misplaced worship, Deut. 6:13-15

(2) God is jealous when we give His glory to another, Isa. 42:8

8. Which emotion is seen in Deut. 32:35? -- Revenge

(1) God takes vengeance on His enemies, Nahum 1:2

(2) God will revenge wrongs committed against His children, Rom. 12:19

9. Which emotion is seen in James 5:11? -- Pity

(1) God pities those who fear Him, Psa. 103:13

(2) God has pity for man and beast, Jonah 4:11

E. THE SOCIAL NATURE OF GOD

1. Point out various aspects of the social relationship between God and man:

(1) God walks among His people, Lev. 26:11-12

(2) God walks with His people, 2 Sam. 7:7

(3) God dwells with His people, Isa. 57:15

(4) God dwells in His people, 2 Cor. 6:16

(5) God meets man, Num. 23:3-4

(6) God communes with man, Gen. 18:1, 33

2. List some privileges enjoyed by man in his relationship with God:

(1) God permits a love relationship, 2 Sam. 12:24; 1 Kings 3:3

(2) God offers presents, 1 Kings 3:5-9

(3) God permits intimacy, Ex. 33:11

(4) God reveals His ways, Psa. 103:7

(5) God shares secrets, Gen. 18:17, 19

(6) God reveals Himself, Num. 12:8

(7) God speaks directly, Num. 12:8

(8) God appreciates affection, Psa. 91:14-16

3. Show that God desires such a relationship:

(1) He remembers past relationships, Jer. 2:2

(2) He is provoked by indifference, Zeph. 1:4, 6

(3) He yearns for man, Hosea 14:1-9

(4) He wants to be wanted, Hosea 5:15

(5) He calls to man, Gen. 3:8-9

"THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE"

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