

Series: **God is...So What?**
Today's Title: **"God Knows All"**

September 25, 2022 – *Select Passages* – Sermon 6 of 16

Objective: To help people know God's perfect and complete knowledge and why it matters.

An article recently gave a title to our current time in history:

'The Age of Uncertainty' (<https://www.churchandculture.org/blog/2022/9/22/the-age-of-uncertainty-and-anxiety>)

- COVID
- Social chaos
- Different ideological philosophies that have no compatibility with other philosophies, are battling for control and influence in our culture.
- Distrust of the political system
- Distrust of politicians – who are the ones with the power to fix the system.
- Breakdown of the basic foundations of law, order, and justice.
- Distrust of a large portion of public schools and what agendas are being promoted in the classroom instead of reading, writing, arithmetic.
- 40-year high inflation and policies enacted which make it worse.
- High gas prices which are down from their \$5.00+ high – but are still 50%-60% higher than they were 18 months ago.

How and when will this all end?

What will our country look like after the mid-terms – after the 2024 election?

That's just a portion of our domestic issues.

What about other nations – China – Russia – North Korea – Afghanistan – Iraq – Iran - Syria?

It would be nice to know how all this turns out.

Today we're discussing God's knowledge – or what theologians call the Omniscience of God.

The perfect and complete knowledge of God.

We don't know how all this turns out – but God knows.

Today we'll discuss God's Omniscience – and why this attribute of God matters – why it's important.

Martin Luther, the Reformer of the 1500's, once told another theologian, *"Your thoughts of God are too human."*

(Luther, to Erasmus, in Bondage of the Will)

Isn't this one of our challenges when we try to consider the person and nature of God?

It's difficult not to think in human terms and human limits – because that is our experience – that's all we know.

But when we study theology – the study of God – and consider His perfections, we must work to understand God – not in human terms, but in His revealed truth about Himself.

Isaiah 46:8-11

"Do not forget this! Keep it in mind! Remember this, you guilty ones. Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like Me.

Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

I will call a swift bird of prey from the east - a leader from a distant land to come and do My bidding. I have said what I would do, and I will do it.”

Trying to wrap our mind around God – and around His works – is not an easy task.

It is a task He calls us to do: “Do not forget this! Keep it in mind! Remember this...”

He calls us to think about Him – to remember Him – to know Him.

God cannot be described accurately in human terms – or within our human limits.

To understand God is a challenging endeavor.

I would argue an endeavor that is a fool’s errand – ***IF*** we pursue it in our own power and intellect.

To understand God more fully – to grasp the truths about God more fully – we need the Spirit of God to guide us, help us, and enlighten our hearts and minds to these grand and amazing realities.

This is a spiritual endeavor – not merely an intellectual one.

1 Corinthians 2:13-16

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?”
But we have the mind of Christ.”

So, let’s pray – and ask Him to do that.

Opening Prayer

The Omniscience of God – Omni - science

From Latin – *Omni* = all / *Scientia* = knowledge

Definition:

“God knows everything, things actual and possible, effortlessly and equally well.” (Basic Theology, by Charles Ryrie, p. 47)

“There is no limit to what He knows, and there is nothing He needs to learn. He knows all things in and of Himself with a perfect knowledge of all things past, present, and future.”

(God Is, by Mark Jones, p. 77)

“God, by His divine nature and without the effort of learning knows all things, past, present, and future.”

(Understanding Christian Theology, by Swindoll and Zuck, p. 181)

God is... omniscient – meaning He knows all.

Let’s look at 3 realities / implications of His omniscience – and then we’ll discuss why this perfection of God is so important – why it matters.

There is nothing God doesn’t know.

God would be the greatest Jeopardy player ever!!

I would pick Him to be on my Trivial Pursuit partner.

He knows all the answers...to every question...every problem.

Psalm 139:1-6

“O LORD, You have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.”

Sounds like my phone!!

Technology is amazing – and a bit Orwellian.

I get in my car – and my phone lights up and tells me how long it will take to get home – even though going home is not in my calendar.

It just knows my routines – my tendencies.

My phone has extensive knowledge of me and what I typically do – but it’s not perfect knowledge.

Sometimes I’m not going home – but my phone doesn’t know that.

Unlike your phone - God’s personal knowledge of you is complete – thorough. There is nothing in your life – no thoughts – no actions – no conversations – that are ever outside of God’s knowledge. *He is aware of all those things!*

His knowledge is so complete that He even knows your motives – your heart. Not just what you say or do, but why. (1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 21:2; Luke 16:15)

“Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.”

He knows what we will say before we say it!
The knowledge of God surrounds us. We never exist outside of His knowledge.

David ends this section with a worshipful tone – assessing the wonder of God’s knowledge he says it’s: “...too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.”

The omniscience of God may make us uncomfortable due to our secret thoughts and secret sins – which are not secret with God.

But David takes this vertical – and he helps us see the knowledge of God in light of His goodness and holiness. God – is a self-existing, infinite being – and since He is infinite – then His knowledge would also be infinite – without limits.

God knows all things that exist in actuality.

As David said in **Psalm 139** – “You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.”

God knows all things which exist – Nothing falls outside of His knowledge.

Psalm 147:4-5

“He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.”

God knows the future.

This is why so many of the O.T. prophets and N.T. writers were able to prophecy – to write about things which would happen in the future.

Isaiah prophesied (approx. 200 years before) about Cyrus delivering the Jews from Babylon.

He prophesied about the birth of the Messiah – and the way in which the Messiah would be killed.

Daniel was able to reveal what kingdoms would follow in history after Babylon.

Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him 3x before the rooster crowed.

Many Biblical writers wrote about the end of history and the events that will take place.

God knows things that might have happened.

Jesus, in **Matthew 11:21**, says what would have happened in Tyre and Sidon if Jesus had performed His miracles in those cities.

God told David (1 Samuel 23:1-13) what would happen if Saul came to the city David and his men were hiding in.

He knows all the potential outcomes of our actions – even before we act.

There is nothing God doesn't know.

“This means that God is always fully aware of everything. If He should wish to tell us the number of grains of sand on the seashore or the number of stars in the sky, He would not have to count them all quickly like some kind of giant computer, nor would He have to call the number to mind because it was something He had not thought about for a time.

Rather, He always knows all things at once. All of these facts and all other things that He knows are always fully present in His consciousness. He does not have to reason to conclusion or ponder carefully before He answers, for He knows the end from the beginning, and He never learns and never forgets anything.”

(Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem, p. 191)

Nothing surprises God.

He is never shocked – surprised – or presented with a situation that requires Him to make a quick change of plans.

Psalm 139:16

“You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

He knows us completely – even before we were born. He knows all of our potential acts and the potential of all those acts – before we act.

Proverbs 15:3

“The LORD is watching everywhere, keeping His eye on both the evil and the good.”

He is aware of all things – all plans – all intentions and motives.

Daniel 2:22

“He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness...”

He is never surprised by an election.

He is never surprised by the action of a nation against another nation.

He is never surprised when you lose your job – when you get cancer – when you have an accident – when your a/c breaks down - when someone dies – when your boyfriend gets down on 1 knee and pops the question!

Nothing ever shocks Him or alarms Him – since He knows everything before it happens.

Nothing is hidden from God.

This is the most uncomfortable reality of this attribute – at least for the unbeliever – or the believer struggling with sin (*which really includes all of us!!*).

God knows the thoughts of our hearts. – John 21:17, Peter said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

God knows the hidden details of our lives. – John 4:17-18,

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband - for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now.”

As I mentioned – this can be uncomfortable for us – due to our sin.

But we should be comforted in this – because we know that God knows our heart – He understands our struggles – He judges each situation perfectly because of His perfect knowledge.

Ezekiel 11:5b – God speaking

“I know what you are saying, for I know every thought that comes into your minds.”

Numbers 32:23b – Moses speaking of God’s intimate knowledge

“...you may be sure that your sin will find you out.”

Psalms 90:8 – psalmist speaking to God

“You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.”

“No talebearer can inform on us; no enemy can make an accusation stick; No forgotten skeleton can come tumbling out of some hidden closet to abash us and expose our past; No unsuspected weakness in our character can come to light to turn God away from us, since He knew us utterly before we knew Him and called us to Himself in the full knowledge of everything that was against us.”

(Basic Theology, by Charles Ryrie, p. 47, quoting A.W. Tozer)

Apply it... So What?

1. Believers should be slow to judge others.

Judging correctly – with justice – requires love – but also full knowledge of the situation.

This is where we often fail.

We rush to judgment before we have all the facts.

God’s judgement is always perfect – and just – because He knows all.

2. Believers should be secure in our salvation.

He knows us – everything about us – and He still loves us – still died for us – still chose us – still drew us to Himself!

Romans 5:8

“...God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

3. Believers should be sensitive to God’s warnings of the dangers of sin.

The knowledge of a parent – desires of a child.

Hebrews 4:13

“And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

4. Believers should take solace in God’s full knowledge when troubles and pain enter our life.

Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

5. Believers should live sober and obedient lives, in the awareness that God knows all and sees all.

Closing prayer