

The True Nature of God Session 1 – Knowing God Through His Word

I. Introduction – Knowing God vs Knowing About God

A. What do we know about God?

What do we believe?

1. Where did we get our information about Him?
2. Whose opinion are we following?
3. Is the information that we have received true?

B. What do I believe about His nature?

Nature = the fundamental dispositions and characteristics of a person, including the way they think, feel and act.

1. Thoughts (What does God think?)
2. Feelings (How does God feel?)
3. Expectations (What does God expect?)
4. Methods (What are God's methods/His way of doing things?)

C. Where do my beliefs come from?

1. Many of our beliefs are established solely upon the things we have heard.

Parents, Grandparents, Peers, Teachers, Friends, Etc.

2. Cultural Impartation

Bible Belt – a specific region of the southern United States in which socially conservative evangelical Protestantism plays a strong role in society and politics – a region filled with devout religious Americans.

Even sinners display some religious ideas in the Bible Belt.

3. Who first told you about God?
Many of our ideas about God were imparted to us through people who hold strong influence in our lives.

D. When it comes to spiritual things, there is no room for error.

1. **John 8:32 (KJV)** – And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
2. **2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)** – *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified*

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT) – *Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.*

Examine = to try or test. In Context = To test your faith in order to be certain that your faith is genuine and true based on God's His definition of faith.

We should examine ourselves spiritually to be sure that we are living in the truth regarding our faith.

3. **Hebrews 13:9A (NASB)** – *Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings.
Not all teaching is true.
Everything that we have been taught may not be true.*
4. **1 John 4:1 (NKJV)** – *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world*

5. **1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NKJV)** – *Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

E. I Must make sure that my beliefs about God are true and completely established upon His Word.

While we may trust those who have instructed us in the ways of God, there comes a time for us to go to THE SOURCE of absolute truth for ourselves. – THE WORD OF GOD!

II. Knowing God Through His Word

A. God reveals himself to us through His Word.

1 Samuel 3:21 (NKJV) – *Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.*

By His Word, I can Know Him (His nature)

B. Scripture must be accurately interpreted.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) – *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15 (CSB) – *Correctly teaching the Word of Truth*

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) – *One who correctly explains the Word of Truth*

1. For one to correctly explain the Word of Truth, he must first correctly understand it.
2. Understanding of the Word comes through giving time, research, meditation, prayer and further study to it.
3. Failure to correctly understand the Word will lead to doctrinal error. Doctrinal error will hinder us from receiving all that God provides for us.

John 5:39-40 (NLT) – ³⁹*“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.*

- a. It is possible to spend time in the Word and still miss God.
- b. We miss God when we are in the Word but fail to receive accurate interpretation and understanding of it.

C. All Scripture must harmonize.

1. Harmonize = Root = agreement
To bring that which is different into agreement
Example: Musical notes – different notes come together and agree as a chord. C-E-G become one C Chord.
2. The Bible has one author. He does not contradict himself
3. When the Bible appears to contradict itself, we must go back and examine the interpretation. The interpretation must be in error.
4. Doctrine cannot be established on one verse or one example.

D. Consideration must be given to the context of scripture.

1. When, Where and Why.
 - a. The era in which some scripture is written is applicable to accurate interpretation.
 - b. The geographical location/culture may apply to interpretation.
 - c. In some cases, there were specific circumstances going on that may be applicable to accurate interpretation.
2. The #1 issue with accurate interpretation of scripture is failure to appropriately harmonize the Old Testament with the New.

We must understand old covenant vs new covenant.
They do harmonize.

E. The first step to understanding the true nature of God is to be willing to allow the Word of God to be the authority on the subject.

1. What/Who holds the authority over what you believe?

Mark 7:13 (NKJV) – *making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”*

Other Versions

You cancel the Word of God by your tradition.

You make void the Word of God.

Invalidating the Word of God.

Ignoring the Word of God.

Setting aside the Word of God.

2. Make a conscious choice to believe what the Word says above the words of all others.

Pastor’s Personal Policy

- *I will always believe it if I can see it in the Word.*
- *I will always test every revelation by the Word.*
- *I will always test every message by the Word.*
- *If I can see it in the Word, I will receive it.*
- *My understanding of the nature of God is completely established upon how I see Him in His Word.*