

## **Jesus On Knowing**

### **Opening Announcements**

### **Opening Prayer**

Q: How do we "know" God?

Q: How are we KNOWN BY God?

### **Table Time...**

**READ: Matthew 7:21-23** ""Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' **23** And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

Q: What's your reaction to this passage? Is it "heavy", scary, comforting, or something else?

Q: Why isn't all those "good works" enough?

Q: What's the POINT of what Jesus is saying here?

**READ: Galatians 4:8-9** "Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. **9** But now that you have come to know God, **or rather to be known by God**, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?"

### **CONTEXT:**

*In the above passage, St Paul is writing a letter to the church at Galatia. Apparently they had believed the Gospel that they were "saved by grace" and that Jesus had fulfilled the Law. But after Paul left, some other "false teachers" had come in and taught them that in order to be "saved" they ALSO had to keep the Old Covenant of the Law as well as believing in Jesus. Paul is addressing this in the Letter to the Galatians.*

Q: In verses 8 and 9, Paul is making a comparison between "before" and "after". In verse 9, how does he characterize "being known by God"?

Q: How does being "known by God" help us understand Jesus' teaching in Mathew 7:21-23 above?

**READ: 1 John 4:7-8** "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Q: According to these verses HOW do we "know" God?

**READ: Romans 5:8** "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

Q: What does God DO for us?

Q: How does that help us "know" Him and Jesus?

### **Big Group Debrief...**

**READ: 1 John 4:9-12** "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."

Q: So, HOW do these verses "reveal" or help us "know" Jesus?

Q: When we "know" Him, how does that impact our "doing"? (Remember those Jesus DIDN'T know, DID a lot of things in His Name!)

Q: How might you Love God and Love your neighbor this week?