Man’s Need to Know God

Intro: God exists. He has revealed Himself to man. It is man’s obligation to come to know God. As Paul preached to the Athenians, he stated: “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 23 Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 24 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 25 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.” (Acts 17:24-27).

I. Our Need Stated
   A. We have a need to seek God.
      1. God created us with a need to worship, so we need to seek Him to worship Him.
      2. Psa. 42:1-2 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”
      3. Psa. 63:1-2 “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.”
   B. Jer. 9:23-24 “Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”

II. The Goodness That Comes from Knowing God
   A. Peace; Job 22:21 “Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.”
   B. Eternal life; John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
   C. 2 Pet. 1:2-4 “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
      1. Grace
      2. Peace
         a. With God; Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
         b. With self; John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
         c. With our fellow man; Rom. 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”
      3. Life
         a. The abundant life here; John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”
         b. Eternal life in the hereafter; 2 Pet. 1:11 “For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”
   4. Godliness; 1 Tim. 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”
   5. Exceeding great and precious promises; Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
III. KNOWLEDGE

A. John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
   1. Knowledge is from the Greek γινώσκω (ginasko) which means an experienced knowledge or a knowledge applied in life.
   2. This is opposed to the Greek οίδα (oida) which means a theoretical knowledge.
   3. Eternal life does not come by just a theoretical knowledge of God but a knowledge that is applied in life.

B. 2 Pet. 1:2-4 “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
   1. Peter adds the prefix ἐπί (epi) to γνώσις (gnosis). ἐπί (Epi) means upon, thus upon knowledge.
   2. It is an ever growing, developing, ever applying itself in learning what God is like into our lives.
   3. A complete understanding that fully applies itself day after day as we learn in service to Him.
   4. It is seen as we apply the Christian graces to our lives:
      a. 2 Pet. 1:5-7 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”
      b. Virtue — moral excellence and goodness
      c. Knowledge — an understanding of God’s Will within our lives which comes from study of the Word.
      d. Temperance — self control
      e. Patience — endurance
      f. Godliness — reverence, respect, piety towards God
      g. Brotherly kindness — an affectionate type love for the brethren
      h. Charity — this is agape love which is a serving love that does what is best for others.

IV. 2 THE. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

A. If we do not know God, then we will be punished.
B. The implication is if we know God we will obey the Gospel, escape punishment, and thus have life.

Conclusion: Do you really know God?