

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

I. Is It Possible to Know God?

- A. The Bible says that God is incomprehensible, Job 11:7; Isa. 40:18. This means that we cannot know everything about God. *Rom 11:33*
- B. The Bible says that God is knowable, John 14:7; 17:3; 1 John 5:20. This means that we can know something about God.

II. What Are Some of the Characteristics of the Knowledge of God?

- A. Its source is God Himself. Although He uses various means, ultimately all knowledge of Himself comes from Him. *All True Theology God's Will*
- B. Its content is both factual and personal. To know a person without many facts about him is shallow; to know facts without knowing the person is incomplete. More facts ought to bring a better personal relationship which in turn ought to make one wish to know more facts.
- C. Its method of revelation was progressive throughout history. Compare Jewish theology with Christian theology; for example, the Trinity, Christology, Holy Spirit, resurrection.
- D. Some of the purposes of knowing God are:
1. To lead people to eternal life, John 17:3; 1 Tim. 2:4.
 2. To foster Christian growth (2 Pet. 3:18) with sound doctrine (2 Tim. 1:13; 4:3) and a discerning, fruitful lifestyle (Phil. 1:9-10; 2 Pet. 1:5).
 3. To warn about future judgment, Heb. 10:26-27.
 4. To generate true worship of God, Rom. 11:33-36.

III. Some Prerequisites for Knowing God

- A. Obviously God must choose to reveal Himself or we could never know Him.
- B. God must give languages as the vehicle of communication, and sufficient languages so that His revelation could be adequately conveyed.
- C. God gave humans rationality and intelligence so that we can understand what He reveals of Himself. Sin makes it impossible to guarantee that human understanding will always be reliable, but it does not eradicate a person's ability to understand.
- D. God gives the Holy Spirit to guide our understanding, John 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:10.

Note well: we are not only studying a subject, the doctrine of God but we need to be experiencing a personal relationship with the living God.