

THE HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

August 2023

No. 452

KNOWING GOD

When you come to the end of your life and you stand before Christ, you want Him to accept you as one of His. You do not want him to reject you.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Mat. 7:22-23)

These individuals thought that the Lord knew them. They thought they had served Him and even had prophesied, cast

THE HARVESTER
141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



out demons, and done many wonders in His name. But the Lord is saying that He never knew these individuals that He is rejecting. You want to be known by the Lord. It is also important to know God.

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (2 The. 1:7-8)

When Jesus returns, He will take vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel, but He will also take vengeance on those who do not know God. It is important to be known by God and to know God. This relationship between you and God is of all importance. If you do not have this relationship, you will be rejected and receive His vengeance.

What does it mean to know God? What does it mean to know anyone? There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing someone. I know about the President of the United States of America. I know what he looks like; I know his political party; I know the promises he has made; I know where he stands on some important issues; I know some of the decisions he has made. I know about the President, but I do not know the President. I have never met him; I have never spent any time with him. And he certainly does not know me. On the other hand, I know my wife. I have known her for over fifty years. I know the things that she likes; I know that she is loving and caring; I know that she is a server and a giver; I know pretty much what she will say and do in certain circumstances. I have spent many years with her. Given my illustration between my knowing about the President and knowing my wife, my question to you is 'Do you know God?' You can go to the church assembly every Sunday and even be very knowledgeable about the Bible and many of the teachings found therein. You can know about God, but do you really know God?

Jesus knows the Father. One day Jesus was speaking to the Jews:

Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. (John 8:54-55)

Another time, He said in Matthew 11:27,

All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Jesus certainly knows the Father. He was in the beginning with the Father; together they created the universe; the Father told Jesus what to do and what to say while here on earth; many times, Jesus spent much time in prayer with the Father. Jesus has revealed the Father to you and me.

Jesus used the illustration of Him being our shepherd.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. (John 10:1-5)

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. (John 10:14)

Sheep know their shepherd. He has led them to pasture; he has watered them; he has rescued them from danger. In Psalm 23, David describes how the Lord was his Shep-

herd. The point is that the shepherd knows his sheep and the sheep know the shepherd. Many flocks of sheep can be mixed together in one place, but when a shepherd calls his sheep, only his sheep follow him because they know him and they know his voice. This illustrates how we should know our Shepherd.

Part of knowing God is keeping His commandments and walking as Jesus walked.

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (1 John 2:3-6)

Your works cannot deny your knowledge of God.

Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. (Tit. 1:15-16)

Having love for one another is one of the important characteristics you must have in knowing God.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (1 John 4:7)

My encouragement to you is to truly know God. Study the Bible to understand God. Keep His commandments and walk as Jesus walked. Spend much time in prayer with your Father. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life. Develop an intimate knowledge of God.

ED ANDERSON
Sierra Vista, AZ

TAKE NO THOUGHT

More and more it seems easier to get caught up in the things of this world. Could this be happening to you? Most people would quickly answer, “No, not me!” But seriously, have you lately become more concerned for the worldly things than for the spiritual things? Do you worry more about where your next meal will come from, how you will pay next month’s bill, or when you will feel better and healthy again? If you find yourself constantly in situations such as these, then it would definitely be of some comfort to review Matthew 6:25-34.

...Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? (Mat. 6:25)

In other words there are more significant things than food, drink, and clothing. Eternal life should be a very important matter to each one of us. Yet how sad it is to find someone who would “sell his very soul” to obtain all the riches in the earth or someone who would “give anything” to own some material object. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 16:26?

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Obviously, the soul of man is more precious than anything the world has to offer today!

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Fa-

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God’s harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: theharvesteronline@gmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

ther feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
(Mat. 6: 26)

Here Jesus uses a beautiful but simple illustration. Have you ever wondered about the birds? Where do they go for safety during the worst of thunderstorms? How do they always manage to find food, even enough to feed their young ones? Obviously their Creator watches over them. Similarly, God watches over us, but more so because we have been created in His own image (Gen. 1:27). In this sense we are better than the fowls of the air. Therefore we should worry less about life and the things of this world than the birds seem to do.

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? (Mat. 6:27)

After all, what good does fretting do for a person? All the worrying in the world will never put food on your table nor make you one inch taller!

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (Mat. 6:28-29)

Solomon was a king of immense wealth and honor. Yet his expensive and elaborate apparel could not match that of the lilies of the field. Why? He did not receive his clothes directly from God like the lilies did! His clothing was artificially made, not natural!

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your

**PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES —
USE WORDS IF NECESSARY**

heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (Mat. 6:30-32)

Before we even ask, God already knows what we need. Naturally He knows we need food, water, etc. to survive. Therefore He provides these items. Sometimes He provides our necessities directly. Sometimes He provides the money we need to obtain such articles. And other times He provides the means by which we can survive. All in all, we must remember that God is the source of our being, not our own selves!

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (Jas. 1:17)

Once we realize this, we need not worry about how we will make it through another day. Our entire trust must be in God, “O ye of little faith.”

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Mat. 6:33)

If we put God first in our lives, if we search for His kingdom at all times, then God will certainly take care of our lives and our needs. This means we are to “*love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength*” (Mark 12:30). And if we truly love God, we will obey all His commands. “*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous*” (1 John 5:3).

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Mat. 6:34)

Why worry about things that we have very little control over? Tomorrow will take care of itself. More importantly, God will take care of us, if we will only allow Him. So let God reign in your life and “*take no thought*” for worldly things anymore.

RAY MCMANUS

Reprinted from *The Harvester* September 1986

GOSPEL MEETINGS

| DATES | PLACE | SPEAKER |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| August 27 - September 1 | Fairview Near Mt. Vernon, KY | Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY) |

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What disease did the Lord send upon Miriam?
2. How old was Moses when he died?
3. What were the names of Elimelech's two sons?
4. Where did Jesus first see Nathanael?
5. What type of tree did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. For what did Esau sell his birthright to Jacob?
BREAD AND POTTAGE OF LENTILS (Gen. 25:30-34)
2. What was the name of Hagar's son?
ISHMAEL (Gen. 16:15)
3. What should we "seek first"? THE KINGDOM OF GOD
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (Mat. 6:33)
4. Who did Paul heal at Lystra? A LAME MAN (Acts 14:8-10)
5. Noah was a "preacher" of what?
RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 Pet. 2:5)

PSALM 117

O praise the LORD, all ye nations:
praise him, all ye people.

For his merciful kindness is great toward us:
and the truth of the LORD *endureth* for ever.

Praise ye the LORD.