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KNOWING GOD LSN 3

1ST KEY QUESTION

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REVIEW

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 - A. The Growth Chain
 - B. Systematic Theology
 - C. Theology Proper
- II. Attributes Overview 10-12
 - A. Facets, not Compartments
 - B. God's Self-disclosure
 - C. Accurate but Limited
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PREVIEW

III. Four Key Questions

- A. What does it mean to know God? 12-19
- B. What affects one's ability to know God? 20-23
- C. How important is it that we know God? 23-24
- D. What are the distinguishing characteristics of those who know God? 24-28

12-19

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

- 1. Involves accurate knowledge of the truth about God 13
- 2. Proceeds to personal knowledge of God 16
- 3. Produces actions that conform to His character 17
- 4. Transcends human wisdom 18

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TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

*"[Josiah] pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. **Is not that what it means to know Me?**" declares the Lord (Jer. 22:16).*

Knowing what it means to know God and knowing Him accordingly matters!

This kind of knowing God changes who we are and how we live!

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TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

- 1. Involves accurate knowledge of the truth about God
 - Jer. 9:23-24 – Knowing God includes knowledge of different aspects of God's character, in this case, love, justice, and holiness. 14

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

14

1. Involves accurate knowledge of the truth about God

- *It came about after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has (Job 42:7).*

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

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1. Involves accurate knowledge of the truth about God

- **Job's three friends had not spoken the truth about God. God does NOT like to be misrepresented. Accurate knowledge and representation of God is not the sum of what it means to know God, but it is a vital part.**

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

14

1. Involves accurate knowledge of the truth about God

- **Romans 1:18-25 speaks of "knowing God" as "accurate knowledge of the truth about God" but emphasizes the limitations of this type of "knowing God."**

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For **even though they knew God**, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

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*Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For **they exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" (Rom. 1:18-25).*

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KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

15

Romans 1:18-25 tells us that all men are given the truth about God.

They suppress this truth (vs. 18) and exchange this truth about God for a lie (vs. 25).

This truth includes but is not limited to the fact of God's existence.

It also includes aspects of God's character, specifically including eternity, omnipotence, and supremacy.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

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Paul can say that “they knew God” because they knew certain facts about God.

You can lose this knowledge! When men refuse to honor or thank God, this knowledge is exchanged for belief in lies (about God).

This, in turn, leads to futile speculation accompanied by delusions of brilliance.

The Romans 1 scenario illustrates how only knowing truth about God can be temporary.

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

16

2. Proceeds to personal knowledge of God

- *Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor had the word of the Lord yet been revealed to him (1 Sam. 3:7).*
- **Samuel knew about God, but his knowledge to this point was not personal. He knew some facts about God but did not know God in the sense of having been introduced.**

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

16

2. Proceeds to personal knowledge of God

- **Mark 1:14 – *I know who you are!***
Demons have knowledge of certain facts about God and even seem to have some level of personal acquaintance with Him. (*Element 3 is missing!*)
- **Gal. 4:8-9 – “Knowing God” involves the kind of personal relationship where we and God know each other.**

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

17

3. Produces actions that conform to His character

- **Jer. 22:16 – To know God is to promote justice for the afflicted and needy.**
- *They profess to **know God**, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed (Titus 1:16).*

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

17

3. Produces actions that conform to His character

- **Titus 1:16 - Behavior authenticates or invalidates a claim to know God.**
- **Isa. 58:2 & Hos. 8:1-2 – The claim to know God is invalidated by disregard for the Law.**
- **All of the 10 Commandments are grounded on “fair representation” of God.**

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

18

3. Produces actions that conform to His character

- *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments (1 John 2:3).*
- **Disinterest in doing good, commandment keeping, and loving others (1 John 4:8) betrays one’s claim to know God as false!**

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

18

3. Produces actions that conform to His character

- **It goes both ways!** *"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'"* (Matt. 7:22–23).

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

18

4. Transcends human wisdom

- **Man is not capable by himself of reasoning his way to God:** *The world through its wisdom did not come to know God* (1 Cor. 1:21).
- **Jer. 24:7 - Knowing God begins in a heart condition produced by God.**
- **1 John 4:7-8 – God's love is a "right angle grace" that causes us to know God and births the ability to love like Him.**

TODAY: Q1 - WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

19

4. Transcends human wisdom

- **We do have a role to play:** *"We have not ceased to pray for you . . . so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God**"* (Col. 1:9-10).
- **God has made it possible for us to know Him – so seize the opportunity!**

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Is it not the most remarkable of truths that God wants to know us and be known by us?