

HOW TO KNOW GOD

Romans 12:1-2

October 28, 2007 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. There's a story of a Hassidic rabbi, renowned for his piety. He was unexpectedly confronted one day by one of his devoted youthful disciples. In a burst of feeling, the young disciple exclaimed, "My master, I love you!" The ancient teacher looked up from his books and asked his fervent disciple, "Do you know what hurts me, my son?"

The young man was puzzled. Composing himself, he stuttered, "I don't understand your question, Rabbi. I am trying to tell you how much you mean to me, and you confuse me with irrelevant questions." "My question is neither confusing nor irrelevant," rejoined the rabbi. "For if you do not know what hurts me, how can you truly love me?"

- B. Do you know what hurts God?
1. In other words, do you know God?
 2. We will never be able to truly worship God until we know him.
 3. When we see God as we should, then we will worship him as we ought.
 4. Our goal during these 30 Days of Praise is not to fall in love with worship, but to fall in love with God.
- C. What do we need to know about God so we can worship him as we ought to?

I. FIRST, WE NEED TO KNOW GOD'S CHARACTER.

- A. What would you say is your strongest character trait?
- B. What would you say is God's strongest character trait?
1. Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence?
 2. Or his sovereignty, justice, or faithfulness?
- C. His strongest character quality is his holiness-Psalm 29:2.
1. His holiness is seen in Isaiah 6:1-3.
 2. His holiness is also seen in Revelation 4:8.
 3. In both, instances the people reacted in worship when they saw God's holiness, God's character.
- D. In his book, "The Practice of Godliness", Jerry Bridges wrote,
"The reverent godly Christian sees God first in His transcendent glory, majesty, and holiness before he sees Him" in any other light.

II. SECOND, WE NEED TO KNOW GOD'S COMMAND.

- A. What is God's command for us?
1. First, to be saved.
 2. Next to be like him-Romans 8:29 & 12:1-2.
 3. We always become what we worship. For example...
 - a. You can pick out a Sooner or a Cowboy.
 - b. You can pick out a NASCAR fan.
 - c. We should be able to pick out Christians too.
- B. On a wall near the main entrance to the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, is a portrait with the following inscription: "James Butler Bonham--no picture of him exists. This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom." No literal portrait of Jesus exists either. But the likeness of the Son who makes us free can be seen in the lives of His true followers.

III. THIRD, WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO COMMUNE WITH GOD.

- A. In the *Chicago Tribune Magazine* actor Kyle Chandler ("Friday Night Lights" television show) was asked a series of finish-the-sentence questions.

One question was, "I'd give anything to meet ____."

Chandler answered, "God Almighty. I'd like to share my favorite meal with him, and I'd let him do all the talking."

B. Did you know we can. Its called worship—Revelation 3:20.

CONCLUSION

A. When we know God's character better, we can also worship him better.

B. When we accept God's command to be like him we can also worship him better.

C. When we learn to commune with God we can worship him better.

D. Let our prayer today be for God to make us thirsty to know him more so we can worship him as he deserves—Psalm 42:1-2.