

UNIT 1: Getting to Know God the Father
LESSON 1: "The Role of Theology in the Life and Mission of the Christian"
DATE: September 13, 2015
NEXT WEEK: "The Existence of God"
 (Gen. 1-2; Ps. 8; Rom. 1)

INTRODUCTION

- In life there is a vast difference in intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge. We may know a great deal about many things without ever having personally experienced them.
- "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." – A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)
- Our desire is not just to know God in the intellectual sense, but to know God through an intimate relationship with Him.

THE _____ IS ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN CHRIST THAT WE MIGHT KNOW HIM (JOHN 17:1-5).

- A. *God has revealed Himself through _____.*
- B. *God has revealed Himself through _____.*

THE STUDY OF _____ IS NOT MERELY TO KNOW ABOUT GOD BUT TO KNOW HIM (JOHN 17:6-10).

- A. *The _____ of theology – the pursuit of the knowledge of God*
- B. *The _____ of theology – to know God*

"A little knowledge *of* God is worth more than a great deal of knowledge *about* Him." – J.I. Packer

C. *The _____ of theology – from mind to will and emotion*

"How can we turn our knowledge *about* God into knowledge *of* God? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each truth that we learn *about* God into matter for meditation *before* God, leading to prayer and praise *of* God." – J.I. Packer

THE MORE WE KNOW ABOUT GOD, THE MORE WE WILL BE ON _____ TO MAKE HIM KNOWN (JOHN 17:17-23).

A. *The knowledge of God progresses our _____.*

The more deeply we know God, the more truly we begin to resemble Him in holiness because we are conformed to the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). The more clearly we see Christ, the more we resemble Him (1 John 3:2).

B. *The knowledge of God propels our _____.*

Christ's desire is for the expansion of the glory of the triune God through the proclamation of the gospel by His followers.

When we encounter the God of the gospel, we experience something profound, and the natural result of that experience is called praise. And this praise delights to be communicated.

CONCLUSION

- Our mission is to make much of God. Those who truly know God desire to make Him known to others. Since there is no greater knowledge of God than that found in the gospel, we become a people of the gospel who are passionate to make Christ known and enjoyed in this world.

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