

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
PURSuing THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD
NOVEMBER 5TH, 2017 – STEVEN UGAN

I. MANKIND HAS A PROBLEM

A. **Job 36:26** "Behold, God is great, and ***we do not know Him...***"

1. Elihu is correcting the misconception of both Job and his friends in assuming that they had an accurate picture of God and who He is.
2. **Job 38:1-2** Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said:
(2) "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words ***without knowledge?***"

B. **Hos 4:6** ...my people are ***destroyed from lack of knowledge*** ...

1. **Hos 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "***There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God*** in the land."
2. **Isa 5:13** Therefore my people have gone into captivity, ***Because they have no knowledge...***
3. "**All the problems of heaven and earth, though they were to confront us together and at once, would be nothing compared with the overwhelming problem of God: That He is; what He is like; and what we as moral beings must do about Him.**" (A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, HarperCollins, New York, 1971. p. 2)

II. WHAT ARE WE DOING?

A. **2Co 2:14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and ***through us spreads*** everywhere the fragrance of ***the knowledge of him.***

B. **Mat 23:13-15** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. ***You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to...*** (15) "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ***You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.***

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III. NOT A WASTE OF TIME

- A. If you commit to devoting a large portion of time to pursuing the knowledge of God, you will be accused of wasting your time, but nothing could be further from the truth.
- B. **Phi 3:8** What is more, I consider everything a loss **compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ...

IV. WHY GOD IS SERIOUS ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIMSELF

- A. If we do not actively pursue the true knowledge of God, we will assuredly be drawn into deception and idolatry.
 - 1. **Col 2:2-4** My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order **that they may know the mystery of God**, namely, Christ, (3) in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**. (4) I tell you this **so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments**.
 - 2. Hos 4:6-7 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge...(7) **...they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful**.
 - 3. **“The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. ... The idolater simply imagines things about God and acts as if they were true.”** (A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, HarperCollins, New York, 1971. pp. 3&4)
- B. When we pursue religious acts without pursuing the knowledge of God, we are also in danger of becoming Pharisees and of falling into apostasy.
 - 1. **Joh 8:54-55** ...My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. (55) **Though you do not know him, I know him**. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but **I do know him and keep his word**.
 - 2. **Mat 7:22-23** Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' (23) Then I will tell them plainly, **'I never knew you**. Away from me, you evildoers!'

V. WHAT KIND OF KNOWLEDGE?

- A. If God is looking for more than a simple acknowledgment of His existence, then what kind of knowledge *is* He looking for?
1. Who then are those whom God knows? **1Co 8:3** But the man who **loves God** is **known by God**.
 2. “...the width of our knowledge about him is no gauge of the depth of our knowledge of Him.” (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press, Illinois, 1973. p. 39)
 3. **1Co 8:1-3** ... We know that we all possess knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.** (2) **The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.** (3) But **the man who loves God is known by God.**
- B. **Meditation** is the place where knowledge *about* God becomes knowledge *of* God. It is the place of drawing near to God in intimacy, taking a verse in which God reveals something of himself, and having a conversation with Him about that attribute.
- C. We will not accidentally stumble into a deep knowledge of God, it comes only through intentional pursuit.
- Pro 2:1-6** My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, (2) turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, (3) and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, (4) and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, (5) then you will understand **the fear of the LORD** and find **the knowledge of God**. (6) For **the LORD gives wisdom**, and **from his mouth come knowledge** and understanding.