

St. Paul AME Church WING'S Kingdom

Women's Bible Study

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Each Saturday Morning
10:40-11:40 A.M.
All Women Are Welcome
Someone wins a gift each Saturday.
April 11, 2020 via Teleconference

The JOURNEY[™]
From Knowing About God to Knowing God

Call in: 712-432-6122 Access Code: 259369 (Meeting limited to one hour)

As we continue this journey to knowing God, let us be reminded of a verse found in Jeremiah 9:23-24: "This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, ²⁴ but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD." To know God, isn't just knowing the stories found in Scripture. Knowing God is when we experience Him in our own lives. So we should seek to be alert and aware of who He is and what He is doing for us in our own experiences. (Then we can share our own stories) Otherwise we're apt to think what is happening in our lives is happening by our own strength. When we read Zechariah 4:6 we find a story of Zerubbabel, who was to serve as Governor of Jerusalem after returning from captivity in Babylon. He was chosen by God to start rebuilding the Jewish Temple, and God sent him a message by Zechariah saying, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty." God wanted him to know that he wasn't sent to rebuild in his own strength but as he was led by the Spirit of Almighty God. God didn't say how He was going to make it happen, He just wanted Zerubbabel to have faith and trust in Him, and the work would be done.

The better we know God the more we will understand what Jesus said in John 15:4-6. (Pay attention to verse 5) The better we get to know God, the better we will understand that it by Him that we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

Before we delve any further into our lesson this morning I want to reiterate that oftentimes we use God and Jesus interchangeably – as we speak of Jesus we're also speaking of God. Let us look at what this means:

Along our journey of getting to know God through spiritual knowledge, we must also seek to understand the knowledge that we receive. Knowledge is the facts. Understanding is the ability to lift the meaning out of the facts then, of course, Wisdom is to know what to do after we understand the knowledge. Proverbs 4:7 tell us that wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom and with all your getting, get understanding.

So let us try to understand why, when we speak of Jesus, we're speaking of God. Read: John 14:8-11; Read John 10:30; Then read Matthew 11:29.

Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen the Father; He said He and His Father were one; Therefore He says, "Learn of me."

By us being in this study, prayerfully, we have the heart of David as he prayed in Psalm 25:4-5; Let's read it together:

4. *Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.*
5. *Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.*



Name one way that God has revealed Himself: _____

Knowing everything about God and understanding God in all His fullness is impossible. In fact, Job 36:26 says that God is infinitely beyond our understanding. However, does that mean we should avoid the subject all together? No, because God has made many of His traits and attributes understandable and He wants us to know Him. God has revealed Himself to humanity through His book, the Bible. By reading and studying His book, we learn who He is, how He responds, and how He revealed Himself to us. Another way of understanding God is to study the life of His Son, Jesus. Colossians 2:9 says, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." So the second way that we can get to know and understand God is by learning about _____.

Now, back to the scripture where Jesus told Philip, "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father." What did He mean? Read Philippians 2:5-6. This scripture helps us to understand better what Jesus meant in John 14: 7 and John 10:30

The idea is that God, as God, was manifested (made visible) in the incarnation (living form), the works, and the teachings of Christ, so that those who had seen and heard Jesus have actually had a real view of God. When Jesus says, “anyone who has seen the Father has seen me,” He meant that through His character, His works, His words, etc. – God had been made visible. God was not seen in the natural but in the nature of Jesus. The knowledge of Jesus is the knowledge of the Father. John 14:11 says what?

Great: The Lord Jesus Christ was God’s Spirit with flesh to become the Son. He had the exterior of a created being who came to live as though He was a normal human to show us what God looks like in character, works (Deeds), and words. Now moving forward, on our journey, let us be reminded that:

I. God is Lord

Generally speaking, a lord is someone with authority, control, or power over others. In Jesus’ day the word lord was often used as a title of respect toward earthly authorities. In Matthew 18:25-34 Jesus tells a parable about forgiveness. A servant owed his lord and, because he didn’t have money to pay, his lord forgave the debt. Another servant owed the servant who was forgiven by his lord; he appealed to him to have mercy on him and give him more time to pay because he didn’t have money to pay. The forgiven servant threw his fellow servant in prison; when his lord was informed that he had thrown his fellow servant in prison, the lord threw him in prison to be tortured until he could pay. (What message do we get from that parable?)

Today we have “landlords”. That’s an earthly lord but when the leper called Jesus “Lord” in Matthew 8:2, he was showing Jesus respect as a divine healer and teacher. We find scriptures in both the Old Testament referencing God as Lord of lords (Deuteronomy 10:17) and in the New Testament, Revelation 19:1-16. John the revelator gives an account of the vision he had of Jesus’ return – The 16th verse of Revelation 19 says:

“On his robe and on his thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” This verse is speaking of the future time when Jesus Christ will return to earth to set up His kingdom.

Many want the God to supply their needs, actually many want God to save them, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, from going to hell, but how many want the God to be Lord of their lives? As David tells us in Psalm 136:3 to

give thanks to give thanks to the Lord of lords, he emphasizes God's greatness above all other leaders or anyone who holds power. There might be some leaders who think they are above God's control however none of us can go or do anything unless God allows us, regardless of our status. God is Lord!

In the book of Daniel Nebuchadnezzar could be identified as one who thought he was above THE GOD – THE KING OF KINGS – THE LORD OF lords. We have met Nebuchadnezzar. In Daniel – chapter 3 he threw Daniel and his friends into the fiery furnace when they refused to bow down to his golden image of himself. God saved Daniel and his friends and the king recognized Daniel's God as "The God and King" and sent out a summons that if anyone spoke disrespectfully of Daniel's God they were to be torn from limb to limb, plus he promoted them to high positions; yet in chapter 4 God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar through another dream. Daniel interpreted the dream telling the king that God was warning him to humble himself and recognize that his power, wealth, and influence were from God, not of his own making. The king refused to obey – so God judged and punished him in the same manner as the dream had warned him He would do. Nebuchadnezzar was driven insane for seven years. When the king's sanity was restored, he finally humbled himself before God. He made a speech and ended it by declaring:

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble." Daniel 4:37

Even though Nebuchadnezzar was a Gentile, in Jeremiah 27:6; Jeremiah 43:10; Jeremiah 25:8-9, God calls him His servant. God uses anyone He desires to fulfill His purpose.

Just as mankind is today, Israel – God's chosen people -did not always yield to His Lordship, therefore He used even those who didn't worship Him, to get a message to Israel. Some theologians suggest that after Nebuchadnezzar's experience as an animal, he still believed in many gods but worshipped the One God. In www.heraldmag.org there's a quote from Tom Ruggirello that says: "When God allowed the Gentile powers to enter Israel as wild beasts, He was teaching His people the consequences of pride and the result of following other gods."

Today, not every Christian has totally submitted to God's Lordship. There is a difference in receiving Jesus as our Savior and submitting to Him as our Lord. Let us see what Peter preached in Acts 2:36. We are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but when we submit to God's Lordship it means that when Scripture commands us to love one another (John 15:17), that is what we do. It means that when Scripture says we are not to commit adultery, fornication, steal, murder, bear false witness, speak evil about each other or slander each other; when the scripture tells us to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, and render other acts of kindness, we will submit to His Lordship and be obedient to Him.

So, what does it take for God to be Lord of our lives? It only takes submitting to His will and His control. This is why it's so important to study and seek to know God, by so doing we will learn what His whole will for our lives is. It's not always easy to obey His will – it takes sacrifice, it takes denying ourselves not once but over and over. God knew it wouldn't always be easy, as a matter of fact – He knew it would be impossible to always obey His will in our own strength, that's why He has provided for us the Holy Spirit to come and live in us. He will give us power to yield to God's Lordship and Kingship, because greater is He who is in us than all the temptations around us. When we submit to Him as Lord and receive His Holy Spirit, we will be willing and able to deny the lust of the eyes and the pride of life and say "Yes, my God and my Lord." (Read 1Corinthians 12-13) The Holy Spirit will sustain us and form us into the image of Christ, until we see Him face to face – and then we shall be just like Him.