

That They Might Know Thee And Me

Life Eternal and the Saving Knowledge of God

A Bible Study on John 17:3

John 17:3 — “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Study Objective: To understand that eternal life is not merely knowing facts about God, but entering into a living, obedient, transforming relationship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Opening Thought: Let us take a journey through the Scriptures to examine one of the most fascinating, and perhaps one of the most misunderstood, texts in the Word of God.

1. The Benefits of Knowing God

The knowledge spoken of in John 17:3 is not merely intellectual. It is relational, practical, and sanctifying. To know God is to walk with Him, hear His voice, receive His correction, and experience His victory.

Scripture	Teaching Point
1 John 2:13-14	Knowing the heavenly Father and His Son gives us a victorious Christian experience. Through this knowledge, the believer overcomes the wicked one.
1 Corinthians 8:3	If any man loves God, he is known of God. Being known by God strengthens our confidence and enables us to encourage others.
John 10:1-5, 7-15	Christ is the door and the good shepherd. There is no entrance into the kingdom without a living relationship with Him.
Hebrews 3:10	Knowing God includes knowing His ways. Ignorance of God's ways reveals a heart that still needs purification.

2. The Danger of Not Knowing God

The absence of a true saving relationship with God is dangerous. A person may be religious, active, and confident, yet still be working against God because he does not truly know Him.

Scripture	Teaching Point
John 16:3	A persecuting spirit develops in those who do not know the Father or the Son.
1 John 3:6	A personal relationship with God enables the believer to cease from the practice of sin.
Hosea 5:4	Unfaithfulness is the result of not having a saving knowledge of God.
John 8:54-55	Professing to know God while refusing to obey His word is equivalent to lying.
John 7:25-32	Not knowing God produces confusion, unbelief, and a persecuting spirit.
Titus 1:16	A profession of knowing God while denying Him by works is abominable and leaves a person reprobate concerning good works.

If we neglect the present opportunity to come into close relationship with our Lord, we imperceptibly align ourselves with the enemy. The fearful part is that, all the while, we may think we are serving the Lord God.

3. The New Covenant Restores the Relationship

Scripture	Teaching Point
Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant places God's law in the inward parts and writes it in the heart. It restores the relationship between the Creator and His people: "They shall all know me."
Hebrews 8:8-13	Paul repeats the new covenant promise, showing that God's purpose is to bring His people into an obedient, heart-level knowledge of Him.
Revelation 18:1-3	The final message goes forward with great glory during the closing work of earth's history.
Habakkuk 2:14	The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Key Point: The new covenant is not lawless religion. It is the restoration of God's law in the heart and the restoration of a right relationship between the Creator and His creation.

4. How to Receive This Saving Relationship

The saving knowledge of God must be received personally. No minister, parent, spouse, church, or institution can know God for us. We must respond to Christ's invitation ourselves.

Scripture	Teaching Point
Revelation 3:20	By faith, we must recognize that Christ is seeking entrance into the heart. He wants fellowship with us.
Matthew 7:7-8	Asking, seeking, and knocking begin the process of receiving this relationship.
Proverbs 8:17	Those who seek the Lord early and earnestly shall find Him. A saving relationship requires persevering effort.
James 2:26	Faith without works is dead. True seeking will be accompanied by practical obedience.
Jeremiah 29:12-14	The Lord promises to be found when we seek Him with all the heart. This points to personal, heartfelt prayer and earnest surrender.
John 14:21	Those who have Christ's commandments and keep them love Him. To such, Christ promises to manifest Himself.

5. The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-12 — The kingdom of heaven is likened unto ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps, but the foolish took no oil with them. When the bridegroom came, those who were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. Afterward the foolish virgins cried, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But he answered, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

This parable is of vital interest. The wise virgins recognized the call and prepared themselves to enter the marriage banquet. The foolish virgins treated the invitation lightly. They had lamps, but they lacked oil. They had profession, but they lacked the living experience.

The most solemn words in the parable are these:

"Verily I say unto you, I know you not." — *Matthew 25:12*

The issue was not that they had never heard religious truth. The issue was that they did not truly know the Bridegroom. They were not ready because they lacked the inward preparation necessary for entrance into the marriage.

Christ is not merely a guest at the marriage. He is the Prince and King. Scripture presents Him as:

- The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
- The Prince of the host and the Prince of princes (Daniel 8:11, 25)
- The Prince of the covenant (Daniel 11:22)
- The Prince of life (Acts 3:15)
- The King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)

It will soon be too late to know Him. Too late, my friends. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." — 2 Corinthians 6:2

6. Do Not Trust a Superficial Experience

Scripture	Teaching Point
Luke 13:24-28	Many will seek to enter and will not be able. Familiarity with religious things is not the same as a saving relationship with Christ.
Jeremiah 17:9	The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. We cannot trust our feelings.
Isaiah 1:5-6	The whole head is sick and the whole heart faint. Humanity needs thorough healing.
Isaiah 64:6-7	Our own righteousness is as filthy rags. We need the righteousness of Christ.

Many today have cast off the law of God. Even professed people of God often find themselves compromising that sacred and holy law. This lesson teaches that a superficial or artificial Christian experience will place us outside the kingdom of heaven.

7. Works Cannot Cover Lawlessness

Matthew 7:21-23 — “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven... And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

No amount of religious labor can authorize us to continue in sin. Works do not substitute for surrender. Activity does not replace obedience. Profession does not equal conversion.

1 John 2:3-4 — “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar...”

Key Point: If we claim to know God and do not keep His law, we are lying to ourselves and others. True knowledge of God produces obedience, not rebellion.

8. Closing Appeal

A personal relationship with our Creator is what we want, what we need, and what we must have if our lives are to become something of eternal worth.

Do not settle for a borrowed experience. Do not settle for religious activity without inward surrender. Do not wait until the door is shut to discover that you had a lamp but no oil.

Eternal life is to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. That knowledge must begin now.

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Discussion Questions

1. What does John 17:3 teach about the nature of eternal life?
2. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally?
3. How does obedience reveal whether we truly know God?
4. What danger is shown in the experience of the foolish virgins?
5. Why is a superficial Christian experience not enough for the final crisis?
6. What practical steps can you take this week to seek the Lord with all your heart?

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, bring us into a true saving knowledge of You and of Jesus Christ whom You have sent. Do not allow us to rest in profession, religious activity, or a superficial experience. Write Your law in our hearts. Teach us Your ways. Give us the oil of Your Spirit and prepare us to stand faithful when the Bridegroom comes. In Jesus' name, amen.