

# *Living Worship*

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# PART ONE

# KNOWING GOD

*How is the knowledge of God attained?*

There are a multitude of people of different persuasions today who claim to know God. Likewise, many others are accredited with knowing God. Followers flock around worship leaders of various faiths who draw them into many experiences that produce enlightenment and pull on every emotion. Audiences today are impressed with those leaders who purport to have “experienced” God in a supernatural way. Those who have experienced the supernatural are said to be the “spiritual ones” who truly know God. Yet many of these acclaimed leaders direct their followers into serious error.

In light of the current easter mystical deception that has infiltrated Western culture, Christian leadership today carries with it a lot of responsibility. Most people view their Church leaders as ones who know God and have the ability to impart this knowledge to others. Because of non-Christian dogmas, there is a lot of confusion today (even in Christian circles) regarding how God can be known. Thus all those who desire to enter into public Christian ministry are duty-bound to understand what the Bible says about how God is known.

Saving faith must be more than sincere. It must be right. It must proceed out of a correct view of God that is based upon knowledge of Him founded in truth rather than vain imagination.

*Worshippers of the true and living God must worship God's way. It must be done in spirit and truth. **John 4:21***

## THE TEACHINGS OF MYSTICISM

### LESSON ONE: The Fall -- Sin in the Garden of Eden

- ◆ **Gen 3:1-5** Satan's lie to Eve: According to Satan, knowing God is accomplished through:
  - ⇒ Enlightenment apart from obedience to God's Word
  - ⇒ Becoming as God
  - ⇒ Knowing that which should not be known

**Q:** God is all knowing. Why is the desire to know all a sin? What is at the heart of all sin? What are the results of this behavior in regards to Christian leadership? (See *Isa 14:13-14, Prov 8:13, 11:2*) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q:** Why can't those who hold to pagan mystical superstitions know God? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Gen 3:6a** Eve's temptation: Knowing God in the context of carnal desires involves
  - ⇒ Desires of the flesh
  - ⇒ Lust of the eyes
  - ⇒ Desire for hidden knowledge (Mysteries of God)

**Q: James 1:13-15** Compare the temptation of Eve with James' description sin's birth in the individual. Is it possible for those who are dead in their sin to know God? \_\_\_\_\_

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### LESSON TWO: God's Provision for Sin

- ◆ **Gen 2:7** After the Fall, Adam and Eve attempted to remedy the problem of sin on their own. They tried to cover themselves up. This is symbolized an act of covering themselves up with their own righteousness.
- ◆ **Gen 3:21** However, the Lord covered the two with His righteousness.
- ◆ **Gen 3: 3:15** In addition, the Lord provided a permanent resolution for sin. This is a prophecy regarding the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would die for all sin once and for all.

**Q.** In spite of his valiant efforts, the unbeliever cannot know God. In order to know God, the issue of sin needs to be resolved. This is because sin separates man from God and the knowledge of Him. According to the Genesis account of the Fall and God's response, by what power or authority is the knowledge of God attained? Can sinful man expect to know God through his own efforts? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ Since the Fall, two lines of worship have been established.
  - ⇒ False worship established by people who worship God in their own way. False worship systems attempt to know God through worship. False worshippers attempt to know God without a Savior.
  - ⇒ True worship is accomplished by the followers of God who worship Him His way. True worshippers do not worship in order to know God, they worship the God Whom they know. True worshippers worship because they have a Savior in the person of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ **I Cor 8:1b-3** Because it is gained out of rebellion, disobedience and self-elevation through ones own works, the knowledge offered by Satan makes one arrogant.

**Q:** Do those who know the Bible intellectually necessarily know God? Explain:

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### **LESSON THREE: Rebellion at Babel Part 1**

- ◆ **Gen 6:5-8** The sin in the Garden eventually lead the world to such a state of wickedness that God was compelled to destroy all but Noah’s family through flood. Only Noah and his family survived to repopulate the world.
- ◆ **Gen 9:5-6** After the flood God told man to disperse in order to constrain the spread of false worship.
- ◆ **Gen 10:8-10** Nimrod rose up and rebelled against this decree to bring the people of the world under his kingdom.
  - ⇒ Nimrod came from the seed of Ham which Noah had cursed. (**Gen 9:25**)
  - ⇒ Nimrod means “Let us rebel.” The talomod says that Nimrod “incited the whole world to rebel.”
  - ⇒ Nimrod was a hunter. “Hunter before the Lord” means “to the face of” which indicates rebellion. Nimrod discovered how to domesticate animals and make them man’s servants. People were afraid of the wild beasts during that time so they looked to Nimrod the great hunter. Rather than dispersing them as God had commanded, Nimrod gathered them into cities.
  - ⇒ Nimrod was the first Assyrian king and he invented war. Since they used steel weapons, the Assyrians were the most feared of all warriors. They terrorized all who opposed them.
  - ⇒ Nimrod is represented as Sagittarius in mythology. This god called “the archer” is half-horse and half-man and carries a bow which associates him with the Antichrist. (**Rev 6:2**)
  - ⇒ Greek mythology calls Nimrod “the emancipator” or “deliverer” because he freed mankind form the fear of God. (**Prov 1:7**)
  - ⇒ Nimrod was the world’s first dictator whose message was “depart from the judgment of God and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod.”
  - ⇒ He was the first antichrist of the world.

**Q.** Modern thinkers believe that nationalism is bad and a deterrent to world progress. Therefore, they press for globalism or one-world government. What are the dangers in bringing the nations together under one roof? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Can the rebel know God? \_\_\_\_\_

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## LESSON FOUR: Rebellion at Babel Part 2

**THE MARRIAGE OF NIMROD AND SEMIRAMIS**

Eventually a false religious system was built around the person of Nimrod. According to Alexander Hislop in the *Two Babylons*, pagan writings affirm that Nimrod married a woman named Semiramis. Nimrod suffered an untimely death because of the false religious practices that he instituted. After his death, his wife was determined to remain in power of ancient Babylon. Therefore, she devised a plan to provide the world with a false messiah. As a result of the promise of God delivered at the Fall regarding to the coming messiah, the people were looking for a Savior to come. Semiramis was pregnant with Nimrod's son when he died, so she lead the world to believe that this child was the reincarnation of Nimrod and the savior of the world. The people worshipped her as a goddess on account of her son. She was deified as the Queen of Heaven or the woman Babylon.

Out of these events a false religious system emerged that was centered around the attainment of the knowledge of God. A priesthood was set up in order to lead people into these secrets or "mysteries." It was upon this base that all of the pagan or "mystery" religions emerged. All pagan mystical religions, therefore, prescribe various worship techniques that, are administered by priests, allowing the worshipper to enter into the mystical knowledge of God.

**Q. Rev 17:1-6** What role will the woman Babylon have in the future of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q. Rom 11:25-27; I Cor 15:51; Eph 1:9-14; 3:2-6; 5:30-32; 6:9; Col 1:25-27; 2:2-3** Obviously in ancient times people knew far less about God than we do today because they did not have His written Word to refer to. Have these mysteries been revealed to us today? What are they? Is there a need to seek into the unknown to find out more about God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**LESSON FIVE: Rebellion at Babel Part 3**

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BABYLONIAN RELIGION

- ◆ Though they accepted the idea of a superior God, Babylonians were polytheistic, believing in many gods.
- ◆ Babylonians believed in animism or the notion that every object, whether animate or inanimate had a spirit
- ◆ Babylonians contacted the world of the dead through ghosts.
- ◆ Babylonians worshipped in hymns and prayers.
- ◆ Babylonianism was a religion of “mysteries” because it offered its worshippers “secret” knowledge of spiritual things.
  - ⇒ The more that a person was involved in the religion, the more he was entrusted with its “secrets.”
  - ⇒ Enlightenment came through contact with “spirit helpers,” “guides,” or “the gods.”
  - ⇒ Babylonians utilized drugs, “sacred sex,” and meditation with incantations (or mantras) which repeatedly called out the name of some god or other phrase. These repetitive phrases would transport the worshipper into the spiritual world where the “mysteries of God” were revealed.
  - ⇒ Sex rituals, both heterosexual and homosexual were basic to the Babylonian system of worship.
- ◆ Babylonians abandoned ideas of morality or goodness to adopt a relativistic system of morality where truth was relative to each individual. Moral absolutes were abandoned because the restrictions that they spoke of held man in bondage. The Babylonian rose above the moral code because he was no longer limited by the “outdated” ideas of right and wrong that were held by the rest of ignorant society.

**Q.** Use the information supplied above and **Rev 18** to list the areas in our modern world where the Babylonian religion is manifested. What basic religious system drives our culture today? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Compare the Babylonian notions regarding the revelations of knowledge through hidden “mysteries” with Satan’s offer of secret knowledge to Eve. Who



## THE TOWER

- ◆ **Genesis 11:1-9** Babylonians rebelled and built a tower out of their own pride to make a name for themselves. The tower represented the effort of mankind to reach God through his own works. All pagan mystical religions were founded at Babel.
- ◆ Tower building is common among pagan mystical religions.
- ◆ A priesthood was set up to lead pagan worshippers into the "Mysteries of God." The "Mysteries" were unveiled through system of works.
  - ⇒ Self-abasement (groveling)
  - ⇒ Self-inflicted wounds (water baptism, baptism by fire, slashings)
  - ⇒ Self-improvement
  - ⇒ Mantra worship lead by priest
    - \* Departure from physical world to enter into supernatural world
    - \* Mindless worship -- seek God through feelings
    - \* Drug enhancement
    - \* Forsaking doctrine
    - \* All is God so look for God within
  - ⇒ Mysticism -- worshipping to see God manifested

## STATEMENTS OF BABYLONIAN MYSTICS FROM VARIOUS RELIGIONS IN REGARDS TO THE NATURE OF THEIR FAITH

### MANTRA WORSHIP -- VEHICLE USED TO FIX THE MIND ON GOD WHILE ENTERING INTO A SUPERNATURAL OR ALTERED STATE OF MIND

- ◆ ". . .that which is beyond form is ungraspable." **Lao Tsu -- Taoism**
- ◆ "My desire is to sing God's name and glories. It is very good to look on God as the Master and on oneself as His servant." "To fix the mind on God is very difficult, in the beginning, unless one practises meditation in solitude. When a tree is young it should be fenced all around; otherwise it may be destroyed by cattle." "Unless the mind becomes steady there cannot be yoga. It is the wind of worldliness that always disturbs the mind, which may be likened to a candle flame. If that flame doesn't flicker at all, then one is said to have attained yoga." **Ramkrishna -- Hinduism**
- ◆ "We have to start by training the mind to concentrate. . ." "A yoga is a method--any one of many--by which an individual may become united with the Godhead, the Reality which underlies this apparent, ephemeral universe." **How to know God: the Yoga Aphorisms of Patanjali Hindu text**
- ◆ "The primary instrument for the attainment of this condition of freedom is the mantra." The mantra is a repeated phrase or word that enables the pagan worshipper to concentrate on the object of his worship. **Abhinavagupta -- Hindu Text**

### MINDLESS WORSHIP

- ◆ "Don't imagine that you'll discover (the truth) by accumulating more knowledge. Knowledge creates doubt, and doubt makes you ravenous for more knowledge. You can't get full eating this way." **Lao Tsu -- Taoism**
- ◆ "The mind does not have a shape, it does not have a form, it is not a thing, it is a no-thing." **Chien-chih Seng-ts'an (in Japanese, Kanchi Sosan) -- Third Patriarch of Zen Buddhism**
- ◆ "It is natural to have thoughts, but thinking requires effort. In the most natural state, there is nonthinking. What do we mean by nonthinking? Simply allowing thoughts to bubble up into the mind and pass away is nonthinking. Nonthinking is that which goes beyond either thoughts or no thoughts: it is neither blank mind nor busy mind. When the mind is allowed to rest naturally, there is no problem. We create a problem only if we don't like the thoughts that arise spontaneously and want to get rid of them. Then our thoughts persist all the more." "More and more, I have come to realize how thoughts and concepts are all that block us from always being...in the absolute. . . When the view is there, thoughts are seen for what they truly are: fleeting and transparent, and only relative." ***The eye never sleeps: Striking to the heart of zen It is vast and wide, boundless and limitless* -- Buddhist text**
- ◆ "I sit quietly and rest in the nature of mind; I don't question or doubt whether I am in the 'correct' state or not. There is no effort, only rich understanding, wakefulness, and unshakable certainty. When I am in the nature of mind, the ordinary mind is no longer there. There is no need to sustain or confirm a sense of being: I simply am." ***The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* -- Buddhist text**
- ◆ "Brahman is beyond all duality, beyond the reach of thinker and thought." ***Upanishads* -- Hindu Text**
- ◆ "Distortion upon distortion: . . . the more one uses the mind, the more confused one becomes." **Lao Tsu --Taoism**

#### **FORSAKING DOCTRINE -- DENYING ABSOLUTE TRUTH**

- ◆ "What good are doctrines?" "The ultimate Truth is beyond words. Doctrines are words. They're not the Way. The Way is wordless. Words are illusions. . . Don't cling to appearances, and you'll break through all barriers. . . " "Erudition and knowledge are not only useless but also cloud your awareness. Doctrines are only for pointing to the mind. Once you see your mind, why pay attention to doctrines?" **Bodhidharma -- Zen Buddhism**

#### **LOOKING FOR GOD WITHIN**

- ◆ "Those who are highly evolved maintain an indiscriminating perception. Seeing everything, labeling nothing, they maintain their awareness of the Great Oneness. Thus they are supported by it." "To manage your mind, know that there is nothing, and then relinquish all attachment to nothingness." **Lao Tsu -- Taoism**
- ◆ "To exercise no-thought and rest in nothing is the first step toward resting in Tao. To start from nowhere and follow no road is the first step toward attaining Tao." "The mind remains undetermined in the great Void." **Chuang Tzu -- Taoism**
- ◆ "Make your mind one-pointed in meditation, and your heart will be purified. . . With all fears dissolved in the peace of the Self and all desires dedicated to Brahman, controlling the mind and fixing it on me (God), sit in meditation with me as your only goal. With senses and mind constantly controlled through meditation, united with the Self within, an aspirant attains nirvana, the state of abiding joy and peace in me." "Wherever the mind wanders, restless and diffuse in its search for satisfaction without, lead it within; train it to rest in the Self." **Krishna -- Hinduism**
- ◆ "He who knows me as his own divine Self breaks through the belief that he is the body and is not reborn as a separate creature. Such a one is united with me. Delivered from selfish attachment, fear, and anger, filled with me, surrendering themselves to me, purified in the fire of my being, many have reached the state of unity in me" **Gita -- Hindu Text**



## LESSON SEVEN: Sin's resolution

- ◆ **Genesis 3: 6-8, 23-24:** After the sin of Adam and Eve fellowship with God was broken. Man's knowledge of God suffered.
- ◆ **I Cor 8:1b-2** Human knowledge is inadequate
- ◆ **I John 3:1b-2** Disobedient "seekers" do not know God.

**Q: Deut 29:29** At the Fall, Satan offered mankind knowledge of secrets that are only known by God and are meant for God's understanding alone. The knowledge that Satan offered to mankind was the knowledge of Sin which he, himself represented. It was this knowledge that separated mankind from God and, thus, inhibited mankind's knowledge of God. (**Gen 3:8-11**) Specifically, what things can we know that will inhibit our knowledge of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Gen 12:1-3** After Babel, the knowledge of Satan filled the earth. God's plan to resurrect the knowledge of God as the centerpiece of human thought and pave the way to mankind's salvation began with Abram.
- ◆ **John 3:16-21** Jesus was the descendent of Abram through which all nations would be blessed and redemption would be brought to those who believe.
  - ⇒ **II Tim 1:12** Those who believe know God.
  - ⇒ **I Cor 8:2** He who believes is known by God.
- ◆ **Rom 11:33-36** Christians know God but only in part
  - ⇒ **I Cor 13: 8-12** We see Him through a mirror
  - ⇒ **James 1:22-25** The mirror is the Word of God.
- ◆ **Rev 22:1-5** Full knowledge of God is something in the future when He appears.

**Q:** In Revelation, the Apostle John specifically states that the day that we see the face of Jesus will occur after His return. Illumination will likewise occur at that time. What sort of knowledge does the worshipper attempt to attain when he worships in order to see the face of God? **Matt 28:1-9** Do we worship to find God or because we have been found by God? \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE

### LESSON EIGHT: Knowing God -- Initiated by God (Part 1)

- ◆ **Psalm 147:5** God is omniscient. There is no limit to his understanding. God knows everything about you.
  - ⇒ **Jer 1:5a** God knew you even when you were in the womb.
  - ⇒ **Matt 10:30** He has numbered every hair on your head.
  - ⇒ **I Cor 3:20 I Chron 28:9** God knows every one of your thoughts and the motives behind your thoughts.
  - ⇒ **Romans 8:21** God searches your heart.
  - ⇒ **Amos 5:12a** God knows all of your sin.

**Q.** God is all good. Sin cannot dwell in His sight. Since we are sinners, and God knows all of our sins, what fate do we deserve? (**Rom 6:23**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Eph 1:4-8, Rom 8:29-30** Though God knows us as sinners, He chose us from the creation of the world to become worshippers of Him. Though we chose God at the time of conversion, ultimately God is sovereign. It was God's decision that we would become Christians and, thus, know Him.
  - ⇒ **I John 4:19** We only love Him because He first loved us.
- ◆ **Matt 4:10b (Duet 6:13) John 4:24** Those who worship God are those who know God. **II Thess 1:8, I John 3:1b, I Cor 1:20-24** Only those who have been saved can know God. God has chosen those who will be saved. Therefore, the worshipper of God is the one who has been chosen by God for salvation. **Phil 2:5-11** It is God who initiates worship. It is God who makes worshippers of men.

**Q. Ephesians 2:9,** Can a person do anything to save himself from death and eternal separation from God? What are the pitfalls waiting for those who think that salvation can in any way be earned? How do the boasts of self-sufficiency and independence from God affect the worship life of believers? (**I Cor 1:26-31**)

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### LESSON NINE: Knowing God -- Initiated by God (Part 2)

*In contrast to the mystical model of worship, the biblical pattern is clear. Worship is a response to God rather than an attempt to get God to respond to us. God is not a puppet on our string who wait for our initiative to manifest Himself. He manifests Himself and worship follows.*

- ◆ **Ex 3:1-5** God revealed Himself and Moses worshipped.
- ◆ **Ex 20:1-21** God revealed himself to the Israelites through natural wonders and speaking out the ten commandments. **Ex 20:22-26** The people respond in worship by building an altar.
  - ⇒ **Duet 6:1-8, Matt 22:37** The ten commandments were a call for people to worship God with all their heart, soul and strength.
- ◆ **Ex 25-30** God revealed Himself to Moses commanding that he direct the Israelites to make a tabernacle for worship. **Ex 35-40, Lev 9:1-9** As worshippers of God, the people obeyed, constructed the tabernacle and submitted the offering to God. **Lev 9:22-24** God manifested Himself to the people and the people worshipped.
- ◆ **I Kings 18:16-39** After God revealed Himself in Elija's confrontation with the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, the people fell down and worshipped.
- ◆ **Isa 6:1-8** It was after seeing a vision of the Lord that Isaiah determined to worship God through a dedicate life.
- ◆ **Dan 3:1-29** In reverence to the Ten Commandments, Shadrach, Mechach and Abednego refused to bow down before an idol. As a result they were thrown into the fiery furnace (ver 1-23). God appeared in there with them and rescued the three (ver 24-27). It was after that appearance that Nebuchadnezzar worshipped God (ver 28-29).
- ◆ **Luke 19:28-40** Jesus revealed Himself in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was after that the people praised Him for the miracles they had seen. So commanding was His presence that the rocks would have cried out had the people failed to worship Him.
- ◆ **Matt 28:8-9** Jesus revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary after His resurrection and they worshipped Him.
- ◆ **Acts 9:1-6** On his way to Damascus Saul was met by the appearance of the risen Lord and was converted. As a result of that confrontation his life was turned around and he became a worshipper of God.
- ◆ **Acts 16:22** Based upon that worship life, Paul was thrown in a Phillipian jail along with Silas. While continuing in their worship practice the two sang songs and hymns to God as an earthquake broke their bonds. The jailer and his family became worshippers of God as a result of the manifestation of God.
- ◆ **Rev 22:8-9** The angel's admonishment to John regarding how to respond to the revelation of Christ was to "Worship God."

**Q. I Cor 3:6** As leaders are we responsible for the movement of God among His people? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **LESSON TEN: Knowing God -- His creation**

◆ **Psalm 19:1** God makes Himself known in His creation.

**Q. Psalm 139:10**, Since God is ever visible in His creation, is there any place that one can go where the knowledge of God is hidden? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Where in His creation is God particularly evident to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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◆ **Romans 1: 18-24** Though God has made Himself known to all mankind through His creation, many choose to ignore this and worship the creation rather than the Creator. This is called pantheism and it is idolatry. According to Romans worship involves 1) revelation followed by 2) choice.

◆ **Acts 17:27** God is never far from those who seek Him  
⇒ **Romans 1: 24-32** Though they have been given an adequate knowledge of God to make a qualified decision, creation worshippers choose sin over obedience.

**Q.** What are some of the elements of God's creation that are "self evident" testimonies of Him that are nonetheless overlooked by those today who choose to worship the creation rather than the Creator? \_\_\_\_\_

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◆ **Proverbs 15:3** Num 32:23 There is no where one can go where he can escape the eyes of the Lord and His judgments.

**Q.** What is implied in this scripture for those who willingly ignore the ever-present God and continue in their sinful denial? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **LESSON ELEVEN: The importance of gaining knowledge of God**

- ◆ **Job 21:14-15, Matt. 13:14-15, Romans 1:28** In spite of their boasts of attaining the knowledge of God, the rebellious willfully are ignorant of God.
- ◆ **II Thess 1:7b-10** There is a marked contrast between those who think they know God and those who truly know God.
- ◆ **Phil 3:7-9** Knowing God is the greatest thing a Christian can do.

**Q:** What effect do sinful attachments to things of the world have on our ability to know God? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **I Cor 1:20-25** We cannot know God through using world's wisdom -- only through the belief that leads to salvation.
- ◆ **Hos 6:3** He who knows God must first be acquainted with God
- ◆ **John 10: 14** "My sheep know me" (Only Christians can know God)

**Q:** What evidence is there in your life that demonstrates you are one of God's sheep? **Gal 5:22-26** \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **John 17:3** Eternal life is all about knowing God
- ◆ **Proverbs 3:13, 4:5, 15:14, 23:23** God commands that we seek knowledge of Him.
- ◆ **Col 2:2-4** Paul expressed the desire that Christians would know Christ through a "complete understanding" that comes through encouragement and unity in love. (The body of Christ operating properly)
  - ⇒ **I Cor 2:6-15** Knowledge of our salvation and position in Him protects us from the deception of fine-sounding arguments presented by mysticism's knowledge-seekers.
  - ⇒ **Col 1:27** The true "Mystery of God" is "Christ in you."

**Q:** Can one who will not fellowship with other believers claim with accuracy to have an adequate knowledge of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **LESSON TWELVE: Knowing God -- the guidance of the Holy Spirit**

- ◆ **John 14:17** The Holy Spirit is not someone who needs to be sought after. He lives within every believer.
- ◆ **I Cor 2:10b-16** Christians know God as a result the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Q:** In what way does conversion to Christianity affect the believer's view of God's Word, His judgments and the believer's view of life. \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Romans 8:9-11** The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the converted Christian involves the transformation of the believer towards righteousness.

**Q:** Can a person who is a lover of sin say with accuracy that he/she has the Holy Spirit dwelling within? Can he/she truly know God? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Gal. 5:16-26, Matt 6:15-20** Those who know God will display the fruits of the Spirit.

**Q:** Consider the deeds of the flesh. Do any of these behaviors define you? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q:** Consider the fruits of the Spirit. Which of these behaviors define you? How deep is your desire to adopt them into your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **LESSON THIRTEEN: Knowing God -- His Holy Word**

- ◆ **II Peter 3:17-18** Peter commands that we grow in the knowledge of God.
- ◆ **Prov 2:1-11** The knowledge of God comes through the understanding of His precepts.
- ◆ **II Timothy 3:14-17** The Bible is the very revelation of God to man.
- ◆ **John 14: 6-7, John 8:31-32** In order to know God, one must concede to the fact that there is absolute truth. Only the truth set forth by God can set one free from sin.

**Q:** Can the person who denies the divine inspiration of Scripture rightly state that he/she knows God. Can one trust that the one who denies absolute truth is truly saved from sin? \_\_\_\_\_

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**James 1:22-25, 2: 18b-19** Making the Word active in one's life separates the believer from the unbeliever.

⇒ **I John 2:3-6** We know God through obedience to His Word.

**Q.** Can the person who does not obey God say with accuracy that he knows God? Give some examples: \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Philippians 3:10** One primary point of obedience centers around Christ's sufferings. Those who suffer as Christ did truly know God who Himself suffered.

⇒ **I Pet 4:12-16** One must be certain he is suffering for righteousness.

**Q.** How can one suffer for good? How can one suffer for evil? \_\_\_\_\_

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**LESSON FOURTEEN: Knowing God -- Through the ministry of His people (the Church)**

- ◆ **I John 4:4-8** Christian will know God through the expression of true Christian love. God is love

**Q.** Is love a feeling? (**I Cor 13: 4-8a**) Does love overlook sin and fail to punish sin? (**Pr 3:12, 13:24, Rev 3:19**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Eph 4: 11-16** The knowledge of God is conveyed in the church through the offices.

**Q.** Are spiritual gifts to be used for self-profit? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** How has someone helped you to better know God? What spiritual gift was operating? (**Rom 12:4-8 I Cor 12 :4-11**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **II Cor 2:14-16** The knowledge of God is conveyed to the unsaved world through the Christian witness.

**Q.** How is the knowledge of God being spread to the unbeliever through you, your family and your church? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **LESSON FIFTEEN: Knowing God - Prayer**



- ◆ **Eph 1:17-23** Christians will know God through wisdom and revelation
  - ⇒ **Wisdom**
    - ◇ **James 3:13-17** Description of heavenly wisdom
    - ◇ **James 1:5-7** One must be single minded in order to receive wisdom of God
  - ⇒ **Revelation**
    - ◇ **II Tim 3:14-17** Revelation of God given through Scripture
    - ◇ **I Cor 13: 8-12, James 1:22-25** We see God through the mirror of Scripture.

**Q.** Can one have heart set on the ways of the world and the ways of God and still rightly claim to know God? Can one ignore the truth of Scripture and still rightly to know God? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ **John 4:21** There is a qualification upon which all worship is based. God must be worshipped in spirit and truth. This lesson has detailed the spiritual and truth basis of the Christian's relationship with God upon which the knowledge of God is based.

**Q.** Based upon *John 4:21* in the context of this study answer these questions. Is Christian worship a pursuit to know God? Is Christian worship a sincere and intelligent response to the knowledge of God that has been gathered by the believer through God's revelation in creation, biblical study enlightened by the Holy Spirit, prayer and obedient living in love and unity among the saints? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **LESSON SIXTEEN Part Two: Knowing God -- conclusion**

- **Eph 1:17-23** Knowing God is accomplished only through knowing Jesus.
  - ⇒ **John 10:30** Jesus and God are One
  - ⇒ **Jn 14:6-7** Jesus is the Way Truth and Life. No one comes to Father but by Him. Knowing Jesus is knowing the Father

**Q.** Is there any way that God can be known apart from Christ? In what ways did the life of Christ demonstrate to us who God is? In what way does His death, resurrection and ascension bring those who believe on Him into the knowledge of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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The words that Jesus spoke to His disciples specifically demonstrates that since they knew Jesus they knew God because Jesus and God are one. The beauty and distinctiveness of Christianity is God incarnate in the flesh. God came to earth to demonstrate Himself to all mankind so that they would know Him at last. This God-man Jesus then died for all of mankind so that all might live forever in Him. This is the gospel of Christ. "Through Jesus" is the only way to know God. Mystics attempt to shortcut Jesus hoping to find God through their trivial pursuits. However, their search will always be in vain.

The fact of Christ's incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension proves once and for all that the knowledge of God cannot be attained through the measly offering of human effort. When Jesus came to earth, he was the very embodiment of God. He was the wisdom and revelation of God uncovered for all mankind to see. It is for man to decide, by the grace of God, what to do with that which has been revealed through Christ.

**Q. Josh 24:14-15** What is man's responsibility regarding the revelation of God?\_

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