

KNOWING GOD

Greetings precious people, this week we will explore the important subject of “knowing God” Most people will admit to the idea that there is a God, whatever shape or form “their god” may take or name they may give to it. Today in our society the question is no longer what or who you believe in rather it is a matter of sincerity. Sincerity has become the qualifying factor rather than truth. Few were more sincere than those who blew themselves up and thousands with them on September 11. Does that make them right? Fewer and fewer people are exercising their God given ability to think and reason. It escapes them that no matter how sincere one may be, they can be sincerely wrong.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus made an intentional detour from the commonly traveled path in order that He may have the opportunity to talk with a Samaritan woman. I encourage you to read the entire account but our focus will be upon one of the things Jesus said to the woman. In John 4:19-22, “The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. **You worship what you do not know.**”

Here the Samaritan woman and all the others were “sincerely” worshiping but had no knowledge of what or who they were worshiping. Jesus came in part to correct them in this by giving revelation of God to them through Himself.

Countless people of past and present proudly proclaim, “I worship god **my own way.**” This is equal to idolatry which God strictly forbids. The children of Israel did this in the wilderness as they demanded that Aaron make a god which they could see and worship so Aaron made a golden calf. Do you remember what God’s response to their sincerity and worship “their own way” was? You can read about it in Exodus 32, it wasn’t favorable! Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25 warns us, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

As Jesus made clear to the Samaritan woman, you can not worship that which we do not know. Jesus came that all of mankind may know God. Do you know God? Do you know Jesus Christ? You cannot know God without knowing Jesus Christ.

In John 14:6-11, “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”

Knowing God is not only “knowing about” Him, it is knowing Him intimately and personally. God has given us His Word the Bible in order for us to get to know Him in this way.

Knowing God begins by coming to Him on His terms and in His way. Going back to the Samaritan woman, when confronted with both the truth about herself and God, she humbled herself before God, quit playing games and placed her trust in Him. Jesus had

told her (and us) that they that worship God must worship Him in Spirit and truth. Truth is God's truth (His way) not my own that I have made up to suit myself. Truth is also truth inside. In Psalm 51:6 David wrote, "Behold, You (God) desire truth in the inward parts."

And "in Spirit" speaks of our need to be born again. In John 3:3-7, "Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old?... "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

I ask you again dear one, do you know God?

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