

Video Sharing: Eternal Life is Knowing God-P1&P2

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 09 May 2020

Text

Joh 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Joh 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

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

Jer 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

*Jer 9:24 But **let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.***

I. **Knowing God by J. I. Packer**

One of the first books that I bought as a new Christian was one called "Knowing God" by J. I. Packer [a Canadian Anglican Minister]. The book had a great impact on me in laying a good and proper foundation for my faith. It has sold over a million copies and is now freely available online in pdf format. Please get hold of a copy and study it carefully, especially the Bible verses referred to.

II. **Five Foundational Principles of the Knowledge About God**

Packer listed 5 foundational principles which Christians ought to recognise: I have amended his list to reflect Scripture more accurately.

1. God has spoken to man in the Bible to make us wise unto salvation. The Bible in its original languages is the infallible Word of God. Translated versions may have errors because a word in Hebrew or Greek can have several meanings or shades of meaning in other languages. Nevertheless, there should be internal consistency in terms of doctrine. Cross checking different versions of the Bible can illuminate translation problems.
2. God is Lord and King over all creation, seen and unseen, revealing something of His glory, Majesty & His perfection that should move men and angels to worship and adore Him
3. God created Adam & Eve in His image & likeness which they severely tarnished via sin. Nevertheless, He had a redemption plan executed by sending His only begotten Son, Yahshua [Jesus] to the cross. Through this plan, we find forgiveness and the power to become His children. If we are called, chosen & faithful, we shall bear the image and likeness of Yahshua, the Heavenly Adam.
4. God is triune: The Godhead has 3 persons-Father, Son & Holy Spirit. This is revealed in both the OT and NT. Heresies include Unitarianism [One

- person God] and Binitarianism [only the Father & Son, the Holy Spirit recognised as a power but not a person]
5. We are to become godly, not god-like. This is only possible when He reveals Himself to us via Scripture & the Holy Spirit and we respond in obedience and submission and service.

III. His Attributes: What We Need To Know About God

1. God Is Infinite – He is Self-Existing, Without Origin
2. God Is Immutable – He Never Changes
3. God Is Self-Sufficient – He Has No Needs
4. God is Omnipotent – He Is All Powerful
5. God Is Omniscient – He Is All-Knowing
6. God Is Omnipresent – He Is Always Everywhere
7. God Is Wise – He Is Full of Perfect, Unchanging Wisdom
8. God Is Faithful – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly True
9. God Is Good – He Is Infinitely, Unchangingly Kind and Full of Good Will
10. God Is Just
11. God Is Merciful
12. God Is Gracious
13. God Is Love
14. God Is Holy
15. God Is Glorious
16. The God who Sees
17. The God who Provides

IV. What Offends God

a. Sin: He is angry with sinners every day

*Psa 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and **God is angry with the wicked every day.***

b. He particularly hates 7 sins

Pro 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Pro 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Pro 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

c. His Indignation Kindled

*Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the **indignation** be overpast.*

*Isa 26:21 For, behold, **the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.***

d. His Wrath Aroused

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Col 3:6 **For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:**

V. What Displeases/Pleases Him

a. Walking in the flesh

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God:** for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then **they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

b. Friendship of the World

Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the **friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

c. Faith/Unbelief

Heb 11:6 But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Heb 10:38 Now **the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Heb 10:39 But **we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**

VI. Knowing God vs Knowing About Him

Knowledge puffs up [1Cor 8:1]

Many Christians know a lot about God and His Son Yahshua but they do not really know Him. What does the Bible teach us about knowing Him?

a. Hebrew Word: Yada

Gen 4:1 And Adam **knew** Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Gen 18:19 For **I know him,** that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Note: “The Hebrew word “know” (yada’), which is a common root in the semitic languages, has a wide range of meanings depending upon the context in which the word is found. Like our word “know” in English, the Hebrew word can indicate mental knowledge, that is, that a person “understands” or “has knowledge” of something, as when we say “I know that 2 + 2 is 4.” But the concept of “knowing” something or someone takes on a special meaning in the semitic languages, and this specialized meaning has to do with relationship, and primarily a relationship that is based upon **the making of a covenant**” [Hebrew Word Yada As a Covenant Term in the Bible and the Ancient Near East By Tim Hegg]

b. Greek Word: Ginosko

“Of the 946 times yada’ is found in the Hebrew OT, over 490 times it is translated by the Greek word “ginosko” in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Tanakh....

The Greek term ginosko designates predominately an intellectual concept which is not the predominate concept involved in yada’....For the Hebrews yada’ is more by the heart than by the mind, and the knowing arises not by standing back from in order to look at, but by active and intentional engagement in lived experience” [Tammy Fleming, YADA: The Unique Heart of True Christianity, April 28, 2017-<http://www.teachicoc.org/>]

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

1Co 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is **known** of him.

Note: If we love Him by keeping His commandments, He knows us.

Php 3:10 That I may **know** him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

1Jn 2:3 And hereby we do know that we **know him**, if we keep his commandments.

1Jn 2:4 He that saith, **I know him**, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

c. Glory in Him:

Jer 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

Jer 9:24 But **let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment,**

and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

d. Strong & Do Mighty Exploits:

Dan 11:31 *And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.*

Dan 11:32 *And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.***

VII. Life Eternal

In Jn 17:3, life eternal in the Greek is:

Zoe anionios: literally life endlessly [Strong's translation]

Spiros Zodhiates' **Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament:** says that the word "anionios" refers to the "life which is God's" (p. 107).

As such, what a glorious future we shall have: **to partake of God's own life!** That is what Paul was referring to in:

1Co 2:9 *But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.***

1Co 2:10 *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

Psa 36:7 *How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*

Psa 36:8 **They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.**

Psa 36:9 **For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.**

Psa 36:10 *O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.*

1Pe 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

1Pe 1:4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

1Pe 1:5 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*