

THAT YE MAY KNOW

EPHESIANS 1:

Text: Ephesians 1:18

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¹⁸ *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; **that ye may know** what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

Introduction:

Up to this point in the book of Ephesians, Paul has been praising the Lord. In one long sentence that begins in verse 3 and ends in verse 14, Paul portrays the heights and majesty of God.

He describes in great detail the amazing riches we possess in the Lord.

He also tells us all that God has done for us to bring us to Christ and to guarantee our eternal salvation.

Paul now lets them know what he desires for them to know.

Notice:

1. HE WANTED THEM TO KNOW MORE OF THE PERSON OF CHRIST (VS. 17)

Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Knowledge of God must come from God.

God has revealed Himself in His Word.

Our responsibility is to get to know Him by getting to know the Saviour and the Scripture.

There is no greater knowledge on this earth.

A. W. Tozer wrote over 30 years ago, “It is my opinion that the Christian conception of God current in these middle years of the twentieth century is so decadent as to be utterly beneath the dignity of the Most High God and actually to constitute for professed believers something amounting to a moral calamity.

He goes on to say, “The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him—and of her”

Great truth is found in this statement. If you were to ask most Christians today to list 10 attributes of God many would find it very difficult.

Remember God is:

- Omniscient - having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things.

Psalm 139:1-6

¹ O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. ² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. ⁵ Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

God knows:

- Where I go
- What I think
- What I do
- What I say

God's knowledge is high which we cannot attain it.

Psalm 147:5

⁵ *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*

- Omnipotent - almighty or infinite in power

Genesis 18:14

¹⁴ ***Is any thing too hard for the LORD?*** *At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.*

Psalm 61:2-3

² *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.* ³ *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and **a strong tower** from the enemy.*

Because of His power He is:

- Our source of strength

We cannot serve Him in our own strength. We can only serve Him in the strength He gives us.

He will multiply both the bread and the fishes so that there is sufficient for everyone to be filled. There will be more than enough.

Jeremiah 32:17

¹⁷ Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth **by thy great power** and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard for thee:**

- Omnipresent - present everywhere at the same time

Proverbs 15:3

³ The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Psalms 121:3

³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

²³ Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Psalms 139:7-12

⁷ Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰ Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night

shall be light about me. ¹² *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

- He is Everlasting with No Beginning or Ending

Isaiah 57:15

¹⁵ *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Psalms 90:1-2

¹ *Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.* ² *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

- Immutable – Never Changes

Psalms 102:25-27

²⁵ *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.* ²⁶ *They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:* ²⁷ *But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.*

Malachi 3:6

⁶ *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

- Incomprehensible or Beyond Our Understanding

Job 11:7

⁷ *Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?*

Job 26:14

¹⁴ *Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?*

- He is Self-Existent – Depending on Nothing For His Existence

John 5:26

²⁶ *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

- He Is Self-Sufficient

Psalms 50:12

¹² *If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.*

- Holy

Isaiah 6:3

³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Leviticus 19:2

² *Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.*

Luke 1:49

⁴⁹ *For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.*

- Righteous – Always Does Right

Deuteronomy 32:4

⁴ *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Psalms 119:142

¹⁴² *Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.*

- Just – Fair In All His Actions

Numbers 14:18

¹⁸ *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy,*

forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Psalm 89:14

¹⁴ Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

- Merciful

Psalm 62:12

¹² Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Psalm 89:14

¹⁴ Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Psalm 106:44-45

⁴⁴ Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry: ⁴⁵ And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

Romans 9:14-16

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. ¹⁵ For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ¹⁶ So then

it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

- Long-Suffering

Numbers 14:18

¹⁸ *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

- Wise

Isaiah 40:28

²⁸ *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

- Loving

John 3:16

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should*

not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

- Good

2 Chronicles 5:13

¹³ *It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;*

Psalm 25:8

⁸ *Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.*

- Wrathful

Exodus 34:6-7

⁶ *And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the*

children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

- Truthful

Psalm 31:5

⁵ Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

Titus 1:2

² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

- Faithful

Deuteronomy 7:9

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

1 Thessalonians 5:24

²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

- Jealous

Exodus 20:5

⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the

third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Nahum 1:2

² God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

These are just a few attributes but we can certainly see why Paul desired for the Ephesians to have this knowledge.

Next week we'll consider the Portion of Christ and the Power of Christ, and Position of Christ.

Close:

Do you know Him? If so to what decree do you know Him?

May we know Him in a greater way.

That is the challenge for us this evening – to be more determined to know Him in a greater way.