

The Study of God ***Knowing God, chapter 1***

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a field of study or a class you've taken that you believe has the least relevance in your life? Please explain.
2. When you think of theology or theologians, what comes to your mind?
3. If your college classmate told you that at church he heard a sermon that was "really theological" what impression would you get?

The High Pursuit of Knowing God

The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child or God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father. (Knowing God, p.17, 1993)

Two Dangers of Increased Knowledge of God

Corinthians 8:1-2

8 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. (ESV)

1. The danger of _____.
2. The danger of thinking we're more _____ than we are.

Two Benefits of Increased Knowledge of God

Philippians 1:8-9

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (ESV)

1. The benefit of greater _____.
2. The benefit of greater spiritual _____.

How to Study God

A survey of the many doctrines of God. "... such qualities as his self-existence, his infinity, his eternity, his unchangeableness. We shall have to deal with the *powers* of God: his almightiness, his omniscience, his omnipresence. We shall have to deal with the *perfections* of God, the aspects of his moral character which are manifested in his words and deeds—his holiness, his love and mercy, his truthfulness, his faithfulness, his goodness, his patience, his justice." (Knowing God, p.20, 1993)

Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God. (Knowing God, p.23, 1993)

Practical Tips:

1. Get rest, especially before church, before and during conferences/retreats, and before anytime you hear or read God's Word.
2. Get a study Bible or other resource. Highly recommend the ESV or NIV Study Bibles.
3. Build on what you're learning in your church or campus fellowship. If you regularly attend a Christian gathering on campus, then study what they're teaching that week. In our college campus groups, we discuss the same passage that was just preached on that previous Sunday to go deeper.

Discussion:

1. What are your honest impressions about the idea of spending a couple months in Trellis on the topic of knowing God?
2. What are your greatest challenges to engage in a serious study of knowing God? (your schedule, your priorities, etc.)