

Message Two

Knowing God and His Ways

RK *Hymns*: 17, 612

Scripture Reading: Exo. 33:13; Psa. 103:7a; John 17:3; Heb. 8:10-11; 1 John 5:20; Dan. 11:32

- Exo 33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.
- Psa 103:7a He made His ways known to Moses; ...
- John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.
- Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
- Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
- Dan 11:32 And with his smooth words he will cause those who act wickedly toward the covenant to be profane. But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

I. “I delight in...the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”—Hosea 6:6:

- A. God delights in our knowing Him; therefore, He wants us to “pursue knowing Jehovah”—vv. 6, 3.
- Hosea 6:6 For I delight in lovingkindness and not sacrifice, / And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
- Hosea 6:3 Therefore let us know, let us pursue knowing Jehovah: / His going forth is as sure as the dawn, / And He will come to us as the rain, / As the late rain which waters the earth.
- B. Our knowledge of God is more important than our service to God—v. 6:
- Hosea 6:6 For I delight in lovingkindness and not sacrifice, / And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
1. We should not merely serve God without pursuing knowledge of Him—v. 3.
Hosea 6:3 Therefore let us know, let us pursue knowing Jehovah: / His going forth is as sure as the dawn, / And He will come to us as the rain, / As the late rain which waters the earth.
 2. Our service to God is based on our knowledge of Him—4:6.
Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed / Because of a lack of that knowledge. / For you have rejected that knowledge, / And I will reject you, so that you will not be a priest to Me; / Since you have forgotten the law of your God, / I also will forget your children.

II. We need to have the consciousness of God and the full knowledge of God—1 Pet. 2:19; 2 Pet. 1:2, 8; 3:18:

- 1 Pet 2:19 For this is grace, if anyone, because of a consciousness of God, bears sorrows by suffering unjustly.
- 2 Pet 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;
- 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Pet 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.
- A. The consciousness of God is the consciousness of one’s relation to God, indicating that one is living in an intimate fellowship with God, having and keeping a good and pure conscience toward God—1 Pet. 2:19; 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3:
- 1 Pet 2:19 For this is grace, if anyone, because of a consciousness of God, bears sorrows by suffering unjustly.

- 1 Pet 3:16 Yet with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, so that in the matter in which you are spoken against, those who revile your good manner of life in Christ may be put to shame.
- 1 Tim 1:5 But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and out of a good conscience and out of unfeigned faith;
- 1 Tim 1:19 Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;
- 1 Tim 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- 2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, while unceasingly I have remembrance concerning you in my petitions night and day,
1. Our regenerated spirit has a keen sense toward God, a God-consciousness to deal with God and sense the things of God—Rom. 1:9; 9:1.

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Rom 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit,
 2. To have the consciousness of God is to live in the spirit according to God—1 Pet. 4:6; Rom. 8:2; 1 John 2:27.

1 Pet 4:6 For unto this end the gospel was announced also to those who are now dead, that they might be judged in the flesh according to men but live in the spirit according to God.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- B. The full knowledge of God is an experiential knowledge of God—2 Pet. 1:2, 8:
- 2 Pet 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;
- 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1. The full knowledge of the Triune God is for our participation in and enjoyment of His divine life and divine nature—vv. 3-4.

2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.
 2. In 3:18 the knowledge of the Lord is equal to the truth, the reality of all that He is; hence, to grow in the knowledge of the Lord is to grow by the realization of what Christ is, the realization of the truth—John 8:32; 17:17.

2 Pet 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

III. “Please let me know now Your ways” (Exo. 33:13a); “He made His ways known to Moses” (Psa. 103:7a):

- A. To know God’s ways refers to knowing the principles by which He does things—Gen. 18:23-32; Num. 16:46; 1 Sam. 15:22; 2 Sam. 24:24; Isa. 55:10-11.
- Gen 18:23 And Abraham came near and said, Will You indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked?
- Gen 18:24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed destroy and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?

- Gen 18:25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put to death the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked. Far be it from You! Shall the Judge of all the earth not do justly?
- Gen 18:26 And Jehovah said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place for their sake.
- Gen 18:27 And Abraham answered and said, Now behold, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord, though I am but dust and ashes.
- Gen 18:28 Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five? And He said, I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.
- Gen 18:29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, Suppose forty are found there? And He said, I will not do it, because of the forty.
- Gen 18:30 And he said, Oh may the Lord not be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there? And He said, I will not do it if I find thirty there.
- Gen 18:31 And he said, Now behold, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there? And He said, I will not destroy it, because of the twenty.
- Gen 18:32 And he said, Oh let the Lord not be angry if I speak yet once more. Suppose ten are found there? And He said, I will not destroy it, because of the ten.
- Num 16:46 And Moses said to Aaron, Take the censer and put fire in it from the altar, and lay incense on it, and carry it quickly to the assembly, and make expiation for them. For wrath has gone forth from Jehovah; the plague has begun.
- 1 Sam 15:22 And Samuel said, / Does Jehovah delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices / As much as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? / Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, / And to heed, than the fat of rams.
- 2 Sam 24:24 But the king said to Araunah, No; but I will surely buy it from you for a price, and I will not offer to Jehovah my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
- Isa 55:10 For just as the rain comes down / And the snow from heaven, / And does not return there, / Until it waters the earth / And makes it bear and sprout forth, / That it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
- Isa 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; / It will not return to Me vainly, / But it will accomplish what I delight in, / And it will prosper in the matter to which I have sent it.
- B. God's ways are the ways in which He deals with us; His ways are higher than our ways—v. 9.
- Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, / So My ways are higher than your ways, / And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.
- C. The ways of God are what He wants to do concerning us; His ways are the choices that He makes concerning us—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 1 Cor. 1:1; Rom. 15:32.
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- 1 Cor 1:1 Paul, a called apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Sosthenes the brother,
- Rom 15:32 So that coming to you in joy through the will of God, I may refresh myself and rest with you.
- D. We must learn to know the ways of God, the methods by which He deals with us—Exo. 33:13:
- Exo 33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.
1. If we learn to acknowledge the Lord in all our paths, we will acknowledge His ways—Prov. 3:5-6.
Prov 3:5 Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, / And do not rely on your own understanding;

- Prov 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, / And He will make your paths straight.
2. A great problem among God's people is their wanting everything to revolve around them and to serve their interests—Phil. 2:21.
Phil 2:21 For all seek their own things, not the things of Christ Jesus.
 3. A great need among believers today is to learn the lesson of knowing God's ways and embracing them—Exo. 34:8.
Exo 34:8 And Moses made haste and bowed to the ground and worshipped.
- E. God Himself can be known only by revelation, and God's ways can be known only by submission—Eph. 1:17; 4:20-21; Matt. 11:25-29:
- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- Matt 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I extol You, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.
- Matt 11:26 Yes, Father, for thus it has been well-pleasing in Your sight.
- Matt 11:27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one fully knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone fully know the Father except the Son and him to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.
- Matt 11:28 Come to Me all who toil and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Matt 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
1. Without an unveiling of God to us, we cannot accept God's ways—Job 42:5-6.
Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;
Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
 2. We must first have a revelation before we can accept His ways—Eph. 1:17.
Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
- F. In order to know and accept His ways, we need to know God not only as our Father but also as our God—John 20:17; Eph. 1:3, 17:
- John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
1. It is one thing to know God as the Father, and it is a different thing to know Him as God—Rom. 11:33-36.
Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways!
Rom 11:34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has become His counselor?
Rom 11:35 Or who has first given to Him, and it will be repaid to him?
Rom 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
 2. Those who have seen God know that He is God; a day will come when God opens our eyes to see Him as God and know Him as God—Job 42:5-6.
Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;
Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
 3. We need to see that we are not only God's children but also His slaves—1 John 3:1; James 1:1; Rev. 1:1; 22:3.
1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
James 1:1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the

- dispersion: Rejoice!
- Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John,
- Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;
4. If we have a revelation of God and meet Him as God, we will worship Him and accept His ways—Exo. 33:13; 34:8.
- Exo 33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.
- Exo 34:8 And Moses made haste and bowed to the ground and worshipped.
- G. Our entire spiritual future hinges on our ability to worship the ways of God:
1. All true worship comes from knowing God and receiving a revelation from God—John 9:35-38; Matt. 2:11; 8:2; 9:18; 28:9, 17-18.
- John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and He found him and said, Do you believe into the Son of God?
- John 9:36 He answered and said, And who is He, Lord, that I may believe into Him?
- John 9:37 Jesus said to him, You have both seen Him, and He is the One speaking with you.
- John 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe; and he worshipped Him.
- Matt 2:11 And they came into the house and saw the child with Mary His mother. And falling down, they worshipped Him; and opening their treasures, they offered gifts to Him, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- Matt 8:2 And behold, a leper, coming near, worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, You can cleanse me.
- Matt 9:18 As He was speaking these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshipped Him, saying, My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.
- Matt 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them, saying, Rejoice! And they came to Him and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him.
- Matt 28:17 And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, though some doubted.
- Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
2. To accept the ways of God is to worship the ways of God—Gen. 24:23-27.
- Gen 24:23 And said, Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge in?
- Gen 24:24 And she said to him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.
- Gen 24:25 She also said to him, We have plenty of straw and fodder and also a place to lodge.
- Gen 24:26 And the man bowed and worshipped Jehovah.
- Gen 24:27 And he said, Blessed be Jehovah, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His faithfulness toward my master. As for me, Jehovah has led me in the way to the house of my master's brothers.
3. We must worship God, and we must accept the ways in which He deals with us—Job 42:5-6.
- Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;
- Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
4. Our heart must be brought by God to the point of bowing down before Him and saying, “I worship You for what You choose and for what You have ordained for me.”

IV. “That I may know You”—Exo. 33:13:

- A. Eternal life is the divine life with a special function, that is, to know God and Christ—John 17:3; cf. Matt. 11:27:
- John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.

- Matt 11:27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one fully knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone fully know the Father except the Son and him to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.
1. To know the divine person, we need the divine life—John 17:3; 11:25.
 - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.
 - John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
 2. Since the believers are born of the divine life, they can know God and Christ—Heb. 8:11; Phil. 3:10:
 - Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
 - Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 - a. On the one hand, knowing God gradually increases with our inward growth of life; the more the divine life grows within us, the more we know God.
 - b. On the other hand, this knowing causes the life within us to grow—Col. 1:10.
 - Col 1:10 To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God,
- B. “They shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them”—Heb. 8:11:
1. In this verse to know God Himself is to know the nature of God; when we touch the nature of God, we touch God Himself and know God Himself.
 2. By imparting His divine life into us, God puts the highest law, the law of life, into our spirit, whence it spreads into our inward parts, such as our mind, emotion, and will, and becomes several laws—v. 10:
 - Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
 - a. By the function of the law of life, we know God in the inward way of life—v. 11.
 - Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
 - b. We know God not merely according to outward, objective knowledge but in the inward, subjective consciousness by the sense of life—Rom. 8:6.
 - Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 3. Our inward knowledge of God comes by two means:
 - a. One is by the law of life, which comes from the life of God, and the other is by the teaching of the anointing, which comes from the Holy Spirit of God—Heb. 8:10-11; 1 John 2:20, 27.
 - Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
 - Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
 - 1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.
 - 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.

- b. The law of life primarily causes us to know the nature of God, which is the characteristic of His life; the teaching of the anointing primarily causes us to know God Himself.
- C. The Son of God has come and has given us an understanding so that we might know the true One, the genuine and real God—5:20:
- 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
- 1. This understanding is the faculty of our mind enlightened and empowered by the Spirit of reality to apprehend the divine reality in our regenerated spirit—Eph. 4:23; John 16:12-15.
 - Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
 - John 16:12 I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
 - John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
 - John 16:14 He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will declare it to you.
 - John 16:15 All that the Father has is Mine; for this reason I have said that He receives of Mine and will declare it to you.
 - 2. *Know* in 1 John 5:20 is the ability of the divine life to know the true God in our regenerated spirit through our renewed mind, enlightened by the Spirit of reality—John 17:3; Eph. 1:17.
 - 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
 - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.
 - Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
 - 3. In 1 John 5:20 *Him who is true*—or *the true One*—refers to God becoming subjective to us, to the God who is objective becoming the true One in our life and experience:
 - 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
 - a. The true One is the divine reality; to know the true One means to know the divine reality by experiencing, enjoying, and possessing this reality.
 - b. This indicates that the divine reality—God Himself, who was once objective to us—has become a subjective reality in our experience—v. 6.
 - 1 John 5:6 This is He who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ; not in the water only, but in the water and in the blood; and the Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the reality.
 - 4. The word *this* in verse 20 refers to the God who has come through incarnation and has given us the ability to know Him as the genuine God and be one with Him organically in His Son Jesus Christ.
 - 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
 - 5. *This* refers to the true God and Jesus Christ in whom we are; it includes the fact that we are in this One, the true One, and that we know the true One.

V. “The people who know their God will show strength and take action”—Dan. 11:32:

- A. Knowing God strengthens us; our strength depends on the degree of our knowledge of God—Eph. 1:17; 3:16.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

B. Only those who know God will show strength and take action—Dan. 11:32:

Dan 11:32 And with his smooth words he will cause those who act wickedly toward the covenant to be profane. But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

1. Those who know God will be strong to take action in order to expand their horizons, extend their boundaries, and break new ground for God.
2. On earth today God needs those who know Him in this way.