

Audio Transcript of Sermon

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Knowing About God and Knowing God

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. It seems like most people are curious about celebrities. It makes no difference if the person is famous through television, movies, music, sports, or for some other reason. Once a person gains celebrity status, most people will know something about this or that celebrity, but only those who are closest to the celebrity will actually know the celebrity. Throw out the name of a person on a television show, and if the person is well known and the television show popular, most people will be able to come up with something about the character they portray, but those same people will probably know very little about the celebrity. An actor who does not consider themselves studious may portray a character who is a scholar. The introvert actor who personally prefers a quiet life might portray a character who is an extrovert and the life of the party. Whoever the person we see on television, the movie screen, stage, or on the athletic field, unless we personally know the person, we know very little about the person.

Having retired from public education, I know that the person who is the teacher is different than the teacher most students remember. The teacher teaching third grade can transform themselves into something akin to an oracle for the students. While those third grade students might look at their teacher as an oracle, the parents of those same students may look at the teacher with a sense of derision, because those parents might also only see a person of and about third grade, never considering that unless they happen to be good friends with that teacher, all they know is something about the teacher, just like their own children will only know something about the teacher.

At work and in our social life, we interact with many people and for most of these people, all we may know is something about them, but we might not really know them. When suspects are arrested by police for allegedly committing heinous crimes, where maybe the house is completely ransacked in the search and the backyard dug up, reporters seem to want to know what neighbors thought about the suspect. Typically neighbors respond by saying their neighbor, the suspect, was quiet and kept to themselves, and that they are shocked at the allegations. Even neighbors tend to know something about their neighbors more than

knowing their neighbors. There is a huge difference between knowing about a person and knowing a person. It is no different when it comes to knowing God versus knowing about God.

As Christians we are given an incredible opportunity for eternal life, and it is through eternal life we will know God the Father. Having this hope of eternal life we are getting to know God the Father at this time, a time when most only know about God. Too many at this time only know about God and see God with the same clarity they know about a celebrity. They might be curious and want to know more about God, but at this time they will not know God unless they are also called.

Through the faith we have and hope of eternal life, we are living a transformed life, a life that reflects the teachings of Jesus. It is as we live our transformed life that we come to know God, because everything Jesus taught was aligned with God the Father. Jesus presented God the Father and himself as a package deal. There is no salvation through Jesus only with the absence of God the Father, nor is there salvation through God the Father only with the absence of Jesus. When Jesus came and died for our sins, that set up the opportunity not only for eternal life, but for those who are called to know God the Father and Jesus Christ. John seventeen verse one.

John 17:1-5

- 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:**
- 2. As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**
- 3. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**
- 4. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**
- 5. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

Throughout the Bible are people described as if they knew God. Take for example Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. After wrestling with what Genesis refers to as a man all night, Jacob demanded a blessing to end the match. It was

then that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. When Jacob asked the man's name, the man declined to answer, but Jacob proclaimed he had seen God face to face and his life was preserved. Genesis thirty-two verse twenty-two.

Genesis 32:22-32

- 22. And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.**
- 23. And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.**
- 24. And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.**
- 25. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.**
- 26. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.**
- 27. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.**
- 28. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.**
- 29. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.**
- 30. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.**
- 31. And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.**
- 32. Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.**

Coming face to face with God gave Jacob knowledge of God rather than just knowledge about God. Today God does not wrestle with us as He wrestled with Jacob, but God wrestles with us to bring us to salvation and eternal life. Part of that process involves God understanding if we value anything more than God, Jesus Christ, and eternal life. After decades with no children, finally Abraham and Sarah had a son, Isaac. God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, and when Abraham was willing to do what God required, God stopped him telling him that he now knew that Abraham feared God. Genesis twenty-two verse one.

Genesis 22:1-14

- 1. And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.**
- 2. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.**
- 3. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.**
- 4. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.**
- 5. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.**
- 6. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.**
- 7. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**
- 8. And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.**
- 9. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.**
- 10. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.**
- 11. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.**
- 12. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.**
- 13. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.**
- 14. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.**

Abraham believed God and was considered to be righteous because he never waived and doubted God. He was called the Friend of God, and if we think

about what a friend is, friends know each other. A person tends not to be a friend with somebody they don't know. James two verse twenty.

James 2:20-23

20. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21. Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22. Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23. And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

The concept of friendship between God and man extended beyond Abraham to the king of Israel. God had sought a king who would be a man after His Own heart, and when we think of people very close to us, we think of a very close friend. With the king of Israel, whether a person was a man after God's heart came down to if they did what God expected. Saul was removed from office by God because he did not do what God expected. First Samuel thirteen verse one.

1 Samuel 13:1-14

1. Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

2. Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Beth-el, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

3. And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

4. And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

5. And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven.

6. When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, for the people were distressed, then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

7. And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8. And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

9. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

10. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

11. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

12. Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

13. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever.

14. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.

Saul was replaced by David, described as a man after God's heart who would fulfill the will of God. We know from the many psalms written by David and the accounts of his life, while David was not a perfect person, David knew God seeking to do what God expected. When he came up short, he repented and moved on. Acts thirteen verse twenty-one.

Acts 13:21-23

21. And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

22. And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

23. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

The first letter of John shows the relationship we are to have with God the Father. We are described as now being the children of God even though we have not yet attained eternal life. We are told that just like this world does not know God the Father, this world will not know us. The key to knowing God is also given to us by John. We are told that people who live a sinful life do not know God implying that to know God we must be living a life of righteousness. First John three verse one.

1 John 3:1-9

1. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

We are called and know God and this world does not know God. They might know about God, but they do not know God. John adds some other indicators about the called who know God. Those who know God hear the truth of God and by implication do what is expected. Too many read what is written in the Bible and either marginalize or seemingly apologize for what is written. We do not marginalize or apologize for what is written in the Bible. John also describes those who know God as those who love, because God is love. First John four verse one.

1 John 4:1-11

- 1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**
- 2. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:**
- 3. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.**
- 4. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**
- 5. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.**
- 6. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.**
- 7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.**
- 8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.**
- 9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**
- 10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**
- 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**

If we love, we are keeping the commandments, because love fulfils the law. Paul explained this about the final six commandments by what he wrote in Romans. Romans thirteen verse eight.

Romans 13:8-10

8. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Paul also added that love works no ill to our neighbor, meaning love extends beyond the letter of the law. Similarly, Jesus showed that love is part of the great commandment and a second like it. Matthew twenty-two verse thirty-four.

Matthew 22:34-40

34. But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

35. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36. Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38. This is the first and great commandment.

39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The love that we show to God the Father and other people to fulfill the law involves keeping the ten commandments and is also focused on doing no harm. If we think love fulfills the law and somehow harm to others is involved, we are very mistaken. If we think we can keep the ten commandments in a way that excludes love, like we are keeping the ten commandments in a sterile environment to benefit us, we are mistaken. To fulfill the law, to fulfill the ten commandments, love must be involved, and the love that we must have cannot harm others.

If we want to know God the Father, that is only possible through Jesus Christ. Jesus clearly showed that no person comes to God the Father except through him. That also means, nobody knows God the Father except through Jesus Christ. If

somehow, we think Jesus Christ does not need to be part of our life, we might know about God the Father, but we do not know God the Father. It's possible to be associated with the faith for a long time and not know Jesus or God the Father. Jesus asked Philip why after being with Him so many years, he did not still know Jesus. John fourteen verse one.

John 14:1-18

- 1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**
- 2. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**
- 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**
- 4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.**
- 5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?**
- 6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**
- 7. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.**
- 8. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.**
- 9. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**
- 10. Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.**
- 11. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.**

God wrestled with Jacob all night and God wrestles with us to bring us to salvation, and it is through the Holy Spirit that we can know God the Father. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, is given to those who are called. Those who are not called cannot know God the Father. They might know about Him, but they do not know Him. Verse twelve.

12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.

15. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

17. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

David, a man after God's heart, wrote that those who know God trust God. If we know God, it is in God we put our confidence and trust. We will always love other people bringing no harm to them as we keep the commandments, but it is in God in whom we put our confidence and trust, knowing that God remains faithful. Psalm nine verse one.

Psalm 9:1-10

1. I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

2. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

3. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence.

4. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

5. Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

6. O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

7. But the Lord shall endure forever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.

8. And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

9. The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

10. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Those who know God understand that how God thinks is different than how man thinks. Even our most lofty and noble ideas fall short of the glory of God. Whatever man does, God will do better and higher, and whatever man thinks, God will think better and higher. Isaiah fifty-five verse one.

Isaiah 55:1-11

1. Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

3. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

4. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

5. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

6. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

9. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

We live in a world where not everyone knows God, but we who are called do know God. Jeremiah writes of a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Today, God's teachings are part of who we are and is written in our heart, and in the Kingdom of God, all will have this opportunity. Jeremiah thirty-one verse thirty-one

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

33. But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

We live our lives coming from a place of sin to a place of righteousness, where sin does not control who we are. We can take comfort in having Jesus Christ as an advocate for us in times of weakness that leads to sin. Jesus died for our sins, and the sins of the whole world. If we want to know God the Father, we first have to know Jesus Christ because Jesus is the pathway by which we can know God the Father. If we know Jesus Christ, and do what Jesus taught, the love of God is perfected in us. Jesus taught love, and if we love others, we live in the light knowing Jesus Christ and God the Father. First John two verse one.

1 John 2:1-11

1. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

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

5. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
6. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.
7. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.
8. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.
9. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
10. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.
11. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

We have this hope of eternal life knowing that now we are the children of God not yet having attained eternal life. With that hope, we cannot come up short in the faith. Hebrews four verse one.

Hebrews 4:1-16

1. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.
2. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
3. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.
4. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.
5. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.
6. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:
7. Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
8. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

We who know God the Father and Jesus Christ also know that while sin is never overlooked in our life, that through Jesus Christ, sin can be forgiven. We cannot allow sin to come between us and knowing God and Jesus Christ. Verse eleven.

11. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

14. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We are called to a faith that leads to eternal life, a faith where eternal life comes through Jesus Christ and God the Father in love, a faith that involves knowing God and Jesus Christ. Philippians three verse one.

Philippians 3:1-11

1. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

2. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

3. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

4. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5. Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

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

11. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

It is through love, the love that Jesus taught, that we come to know God the Father. It is through the love of Christ, which is more important than knowledge, that we are filled with the fullness of God. Without the love that Jesus taught, we cannot know God the Father. Ephesians three verse fourteen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

14. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15. Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16. That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18. May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

We live in a world where so many know about people more than they know people, whether those people be celebrities, coworkers, or neighbors. Similarly, too many people know about God the Father and about Jesus Christ. We are

called not to know about God the Father and Jesus Christ but to know God the Father and Jesus Christ, and that happens through love, the love the Jesus taught. To know God the Father and Jesus Christ, we must have a love which transcends the letter of the law of the commandments. We will come to a place where we will know the love of Christ which is more important than knowledge and through that we will be filled with the fullness of God, also knowing God the Father.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together next time on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.