

## **Prayer: What We Need**

### **Sermon Notes: Ephesians 1:15-17**

#### **Week 18 -- 2010**

**QUICK REVIEW** – Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point, story or Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

### **MY STORY**

1) Was the home that you grew up in characterized by parental:

- Encouragement and commendation – i.e. noticing the A's on your report card and not the D's
- Discouragement and criticism – i.e. noticing the one D and not the A's
- Indifference – never read your report card.

How did this impact you?

2) If you could spend a week with one historical person (not including Jesus) in order to get to know them who would it be and why?

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1) At the heart of Paul's prayer was a petition that God would give the Ephesians the Spirit of revelation and wisdom to know God. Knowing God is the most important thing in the world for every Christian. What do the following verses have to say about knowing God?

#### **John 17:3**

*"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*

#### **Jeremiah 24:7**

*"I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God,"*

#### **2 Peter 1:2**

*"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,"*

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

*"Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."*

2) J.I. Packer makes four statements in the book **Knowing God**. These describe four effects that the knowledge of God has upon a man or a woman. These four tests allow us to measure how much, or how little, we know God. What is your reaction to each of these statements?

i. "Those who know God have great energy for God."

**Daniel 11:32**

*"the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."*

ii. "Those who know God have great thoughts about God."

**Daniel 4:25**

*"the Most High rules the kingdom of men" (Daniel's starting point!)*

**Daniel 2:20 ff.**

*"Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him."*

**Daniel 9:4,7,9,14**

*"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments... To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness... To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness... the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done."*

Is this how we think about God? Is this the view of God that our praying expresses?

iii. "Those who know God show great boldness for God."

**Acts 5:29**

*"But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."*

**Daniel 3:17 f.**

*"If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

No matter what happens I will stand for God.

iv. "Those who know God have great contentment in God."

**Romans 5:1**

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**Romans 8:1**

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*  
(Read the whole chapter if you want.)

No matter what happens I am content in God.

**TAKING IT HOME**

How do we turn our knowledge *about* God into knowledge *of* God? By turning each truth that we learn *about* God into matter for meditation *before* God, leading to prayer and praise *to* God.

Is there a truth *about* God that you are praying will become personal knowledge of God in your life?

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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