KNOWING GOD

LESSON 1

Title: Groundwork for an Awesome Study

Text: Proverbs 9:10

1. **Introduction**:
   1. What is your first thought when you think of the word “God?” What do you think of when you think of God?
   2. A.W. Tozer wrote, “Without doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God, and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God.” He went on to say, “The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us.”
   3. A great Christian must have a great concept of God. A great church must have a great concept of God.
2. **The purpose of these lessons is two-fold**:
   1. First, to give us a lofty view, or concept, of God.
   2. Second, to help believers know God. That does not mean to know more about God. Of course, to know more about God is profitable, but you may know about God and not really know God.

**Transition**: With that in mind, let’s consider the admitted difficulty of our study. The more complex a being is, the more difficult he is to understand. Yet, God is knowable!

1. **God is knowable**:
   1. We can only know God in the way He makes Himself known (Jeremiah 9:23-24). How has God revealed Himself to man? What has He done that we may know Him?
   2. God reveals Himself in His Word.
      1. The attributes and characteristics of God can be known through the Scriptures.
      2. But more than that; a man comes to personally know God through the Scriptures,
      3. Quoting J.I. Packer in his book, Knowing God, “We know God in the manner of a son knowing his father, a wife knowing her husband, a subject knowing his king, and a sheep knowing his shepherd. All four analogies point to a relationship in which the knower ‘looks up’ to the one known and the latter takes the responsibility for the welfare of the former.”
   3. God reveals Himself in His Son Jesus Christ:
      1. John 8:19 “…Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.”
      2. If a man does not know the Savior Jesus Christ, he does not know God, regardless of how much he may know about God.
   4. So, our main point is: you can only know God because God has by His grace made Himself known. But to know God, one must have thoughts of God equal to that revealed in His Word and in His Son.
2. **To have lower thoughts of God than He has revealed of Himself is a form of idolatry (Exodus 20: 4-5)**:
   1. The making of a graven image is but an expression of a man’s true thoughts about God.
   2. God is saying, “I am not like anything you know in heaven, earth, or under the water.”
   3. In Exodus 32 when the Israelites made the golden calf it revealed their low thoughts of God.
      1. If we could have gone into camp and asked, “What is God like?” their answer would have been, “This calf over here.”
      2. Before we give ourselves too quick a pass, it’s just as warped to think of God exclusively as another man. Psalm 50:21: “thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself…”
   4. God is not “the man upstairs.” If you, or someone you know, has that concept of God then these lessons are essential for you.
3. **Conclusion**: Read Romans 1:21-28 to illustrate the importance of thinking correctly about God.