



## Life Group Study Notes

### THE PATH: KNOW!

April 23, 2017

#### **Warm Up (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- What is something true about yourself that many people don't know?
- Besides family, who knows you the best?
- What is one thing that you especially enjoyed from your childhood?

#### **Word (10-15 minutes)**

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)**

Bethel's discipleship path describes the way we are seeking to faithfully follow Jesus. We summarize this path with three simple imperatives: Know. Grow. Go.

Today we will consider the imperative, Know! We are called, privileged, and commanded by God to know God.

Romans 1:16-17 ESV *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

- We are called to know and experience the power of the gospel, the good news concerning God's salvation which comes through Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:18-21 ESV *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

- We are expected to know God's power and his divine nature even apart from a knowledge of the gospel. These are to be known by simply being observant and reflective concerning the extraordinary creation of which we are a part.

Romans 1:22-32 describes the moral decadence that characterized Roman society as a consequence of their rejection of the knowledge of God's power and divine nature. They failed to honor God with thanksgiving and righteous obedience to him, and went down the path of moral degeneration, affecting every aspect of society. This danger confronts any society that rejects the knowledge of God.

Romans 2:1-5 ESV *Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.*

- The knowledge of God should not lead to a critical, unloving judgment of those who are far from God and bound by sin. If that happens, then we are also guilty before God of egregious sin, for all of us have sinned and are in need of God's salvation.
- We must remember that it is only because of God's loving kindness that we have been turned from our tendency toward spiritual and moral degeneration, and instead have turned to God through Jesus Christ. All of us need to experientially know God's kindness, forbearance, and patience. Otherwise, we are doomed.

Romans 3:22-24 ESV *For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...*

- Every person on the planet needs to know the great truth of these verses!

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What was your knowledge of God before you entered into a genuine relationship with God through Jesus Christ? If you're not a serious follower of Jesus, how would you describe your current knowledge of God?
- What was your lifestyle before you began following Jesus Christ? If you are not following him, are you aware of anything in your life that is displeasing to him?
- How has the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ changed your life?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Tell God you want to know him more, and ask him to reveal himself more to us.
- Ask God to teach us how to follow Jesus better?
- Ask God to give us opportunities to help others come to know and love God.