

I. The Light of the Knowledge of God

- A. Divine Light - There is a clear biblical truth and paradigm that naturally and spiritually being the source of light is a divine attribute. Figuratively, divine light is contrasted with mortal darkness in two main ways. In these two ways, the light given is divine in its aspects and the contrasted theme is mortal.
1. Contrasted in Righteous Actions or Thoughts
 2. Contrasted in Knowledge or Wisdom of God
- B. For our message today we are going to focus upon the biblical theme of the divine light of the knowledge of God. Specifically, the knowledge of God that gives us insight into His person, who He is, and what He is like. This is the knowledge that the scriptures tell us is more precious than gold and is to be sought after over any other thing we could seek. (Jer. 9:23-24)
- C. The Pricelessness of the Knowledge of God - All relationships grow or wane through the disclosure of personal relational knowledge. Without personal (revealing of the person) relational knowledge there is no relationship. Rather, there is only distance, ignorance, and skepticism. Therefore, the knowledge of God is the key to everything we were made for and desire. Love, nearness, confidence, hope, goodness, righteousness, pleasure, significance, direction, etc., all come from God and are imparted into our lives through relational knowledge.

Thus, when referring to the knowledge of God we are speaking of relational knowledge, not merely factual knowledge. God is not an object from which we can acquire information about – He is a person or identity who is to be known. The reason we love is because we know, and it is knowledge that begets affection and purpose. Love then compels us to seek deeper knowledge, which then causes the interior furnace of intimacy to burn all the brighter. Yet, if at any time the giving or receiving of relational knowledge ceases, the cycle is broken and our affection and purpose will wane until ultimately we are Stagnant. - Stephen Venable

The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. - Westminster Confession

1. When God discloses this knowledge of who He is or what He is like to us, the scripture refers to this as Him giving us revelation, revealing His glory, or shining His light. (Eph. 1:15-17)

II. Searching for God in the Dark

- A. Man has been separated from God - By far, the pinnacle of the negative aspects of the separation of man from the relational intimacy of the garden was the ceasing of the knowledge of God to humanity. As a result of the expulsion from God's presence, humanity was relegated to an existence deprived from the one needful, most precious resource: the knowledge of God. Even though the natural sun showed its light day after day, humanity truly existed in the dark. (Is. 59:9-11)

- B. God is self-revealed - No matter how much we strive or express a longing to peer into the mysteries of who God is and be near Him, we are hindered by the fact that He is self-revealed. He is the creator and we are created; the only things we can know about God are the things He chooses to reveal concerning Himself. (Ex. 33:1Eighteen-19; Mat. 11:27)
 - 1. It is not a rare thing for believers today to feel the weight of this truth and come to the conclusion that perhaps God is stingy or far too conservative with His self-revelation in light of our desire to know Him or hear from Him. This common thinking could not be further from the truth in light of the moment that we are about to celebrate in a few days. (Ps. 135:6)

III. Incarnate Birth

- A. A World in Darkness - Imagine a life in which all the access that you had into the relational knowledge of the God you desired to know was the oral traditions of your forefathers and the law of Moses. God used to speak through a national prophet to your people but that had been over 400 years ago. You were called not only to know and serve God personally as a nation but you were also called to be a light unto the nations around you. However, when you were truly honest with yourself, you found the light that you had was barely bright enough to keep your own faith intact, let alone the oppressive nations around you. Suddenly one night outside of Bethlehem the night sky exploded with light as angels declared the birth of a child who would end the darkness.

- B. The essential Christian doctrine of the incarnation should cause the believer to stand aghast in astonishment at the knowledge of God now made accessible forever to the world. It is not just a step above the previous access to revelation that they experienced. The incarnation is radically different as it relates to the accessibility and depth of the knowledge of God that it is compared to blinding light where there was once darkness. (Is. 9:1-2, 60:1-2; Jhn 1:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:5-6)

IV. Unending Fount of Light

- A. The Speech of the Newborn - There are so many things that God is shouting to us all that are unspoken, yet spoken plainly for all to hear, as we peer into the filthy feeding trough to look upon the face of this newborn baby. Truly the light of the world had stepped down into darkness. (Lk 1:76-79, 2:29-32)
- B. The light of the knowledge of God found in the face of Christ is not like the previous light that was limited by its scope of themes and topics written down by the forefathers of our faith. The full potency of the light of the knowledge of God has been made available to all in an inexhaustible and eternal way and everyone has been given unlimited access. (Col. 2:1-10)

“God could reason as follows: If I have already told you all things in My Word, My Son, and if I have no other word, what answer or revelation can I now make that would surpass this? Fasten your eyes on Him alone because in Him I have spoken and revealed all and in Him you will discover even more than you ask for and desire. You are making an appeal for locutions and revelations that are incomplete, but if you turn your eyes to Him you find them complete. For He is My entire locution and response, vision and revelation, which I have already spoken, answered, manifested, and revealed to you by giving Him to you as a brother, companion, master, ransom, and reward.” - Tomas Dubay

- C. Here are just a few of my personal observations as I have considered the Christ child lying in the manger.
 - 1. He deeply desires for us to fully know Him as God is self-revealed and does what He pleases
 - 2. He desires to know us more in this fallen age in our human frame
 - 3. He desires humility and chose all the aspects and circumstances of his humble birth
 - 4. He loves us selflessly as He gave up the likeness of God forever and exchanged it for the likeness of a man and a servant of men forever.
 - 5. He is committed to us forever, as He will forever be incarnate
 - 6. He speaks when not speaking, sometimes louder than words as the nativity narrative is shouting from the rooftops what God is like even though all we actually hear with our ears is the croons and crying of a baby.
 - 7. He desires to relate to the poor and downtrodden as He could have chosen to be born to wealth and prestige instead he chose to be poor and destitute