

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture! Psalm 119:65-72

Psalm 119:65-72

Do you know Him?

I mean really *know* him?

*STUDY POINT: Write down three key passages from the Holy Bible that describe the intimate daily relationship we can have - and that God desires to have with us - with Jesus.

In the Greek, knowledge is *gnosis*, a general term for academic knowledge, such as knowing scientific facts or knowing that three times three is nine. But closely related to the word knowledge is the verb form *ginosko*, to “know.” It is interesting that the verb form has a much broader application as it relates to our knowledge of God. Think now of these descriptive meanings of the word *know*:

To have known
To be aware of
To feel
To perceive
To be resolved
To speak
To be sure
To understand

With these deeper, richer descriptive words in mind, let’s hear the word *know* in context out of the mouth of Jesus in His high, priestly prayer in John 17:1-26:

John 17:1-26

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: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I

have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

And with the same relational intimacy and childlike faith with which Jesus prays, we discover - in amazement - that God has saved us and called us to the same kind of intimacy with Him, only available through the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:12-17

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

So, this restored relationship with God to which we have been saved is completely a work of the Spirit, the flesh has no part in it:

John 6:63

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.

These are the words Jesus had for the disciples when they tried to understand spiritual truths in the flesh. In the same way, we can fall into wrong ways of knowing God and discerning His will that He never communicated in His Word. In fact, our relationship - our knowledge of God - is so intimately connected to His Word, and importantly His faithfulness to His Word, that we can proclaim this verse along with King David:

Psalms 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Which brings us marvellously, gloriously to our passage this week in Psalm 119. Now we have the context for the intimacy the psalmist shares with God through His Word. Pray through

these verses, as the psalmist does, and you will most certainly be blessed and your relationship with God will grow in both intimacy and truth as you also meditate upon these verses:

Psalm 119:65

(KJV) TETH. Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.

(NIV) Do good to your servant according to your word, LORD.

Psalm 119:66

(KJV) Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

(NIV) Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.

Psalm 119:67

(KJV) Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

(NIV) Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Psalm 119:68

(KJV) Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

(NIV) You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.

Psalm 119:69

(KJV) The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

(NIV) Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.

Psalm 119:70

(KJV) Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

(NIV) Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.

Psalm 119:71

(KJV) It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

(NIV) It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Psalm 119:72

(KJV) The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

(NIV) The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Why do we not always need an analysis and breakdown and commentary on verses in the Bible? How has slowly and prayerfully reading through these eight verses informed and inspired you today?

Beloved, we need to go to God. *Go to God.* For this we were saved!

When I first took an interest in the beautiful woman who is now my wife, I didn't go to her father to learn more about her, or survey her friends as to if I should date her. No. We spent countless hours night after night as baby Christians talking on the phone, talking about our

Lord, and each other, building relationship by being aware and listening, feeling, perceiving, resolving, speaking, understanding, *knowing* one another.

So, I leave you dear believer in Christ with this:

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

- Reverend Darren McClelland