

KNOW THAT.....!

By: Bill Richardson Edited by: Bill Kelly

1. Know that you are an individual made (created) by the Godhead as written in God's word, Genesis (1:26), "*Then God said, 'Let US (speaking of the Godhead) make man (humankind) in Our image, according to Our likeness (image)...*" (cf. Genesis 1:21-25).

In my study for this lesson I found a commentary note on, image/likened, and it was said that no distinction should be made between image and likened, which are synonyms in both the OT (Genesis 5:1; 9:6) and the NT (1 Corinthians 11:7; Colossians 3:10; James 3:9). That gets an Amen from me! Please, be sure to read all referenced scriptures herein.

All of what has been said and thought thus far gives credence to the admonishment of "know thyself." Think about it! There is great blessing to be knowledgeable of the fact that since God made us [humankind]...male and female, in the image or likeness, that every human being is worthy of honor and respect. That is the truth!

Now you tell me, is any human being to be murdered (Genesis 9:6) or cursed (James 3:9)? The image and likeness in which we are made includes characteristics as righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24) and knowledge (Colossians 3:10). Know that believers are to conform to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) and some day be like Him (1 John 3:2). This all accounts for another AMEN!

2. Know that human beings, you and me, have a never-dying soul. Why do you say that, you may ask? Please hear and know what Jesus said, "...*he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?*" (John 11:25-26). While we labor here in our earthly body of flesh/clay which can and will be "*destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Knowing that should cause us to see that our greatest need is NOT for earthly material, but for God's spiritual blessings which are in Christ Jesus. Jesus said of Himself, "*I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes on Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.*" Do you believe what Jesus said? Read Jesus' statement again! Make sure you know all of what He said, then answer the question of belief. There is only one complete and correct answer. NOW, do you have a question? If Jesus ask of you, and He does, do you believe in Me? Jesus' question is to you and me. So, you can see that we individually know that we must answer correctly to be approved by God. Then after answering correctly we must act accordingly. In such a question as this, what we say that we believe, and what we subsequently do/act, must be in harmony with the will of God. His will must be acted out in our will in life; that is our life here on this good earth. If we believe, and are true children of God and having a never-dying soul we thus must know the following:

3. Know that this world is not our home. We truly are blessed to live on this good earth. God created it for us and as true Christians we are to live and do His will in our sojourn here. Life for us is a journey undertaken with specific objectives. It is a pilgrimage, a journey on our way to Heaven to be with our Heavenly Father forever; a place where the soul never dies.

"*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved (and someday it will be), we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*" (2 Corinthians 5:1). Knowing this we should not fear but be willing to obey and to "*set our affections on things above, not in things of the earth*" (Colossians 3:2). By knowing and acceptance through our actions will help us become and be more grateful for the love God has for us through Jesus Christ's life here on earth and His death on the cross.

I say this only to be suggestive, “we will benefit greatly if we know the deeper meanings of certain words.” Having said that in love I make this as a challenge: In the two words above “affection and grateful”, please study them and look to the deeper meanings of each of them and some of the akin words to them. Look at the affect and effect to see the benefit of them having place in our life. We must know and realize how great and wonderful the affect (influence) of Biblical truths are to our life if we are diligent in effecting (carrying out to completion) our responsibilities. Can we realize that we must, by our actions, have an influence in such a way as to produce a change in action, through nature and behavior of others? Would not this be a gratifying, pleasurable and thus rewarding? And yes, acceptable by God!

4. Know that you are a human being. There are blessings in knowing oneself. Before you go any further read those first two statements of this paragraph “4” again, then stop and ponder them. Just test your mind and see how it is operating. Please, I don’t want to offend anyone, but now that you have given additional thought as begged, I have a question. Have you ever given consideration and deep study in knowing yourself...that is by the fact that you were created by God and that you are a human being?

I’m thinking that some word definitions are in order here. The word “human” is an adjective, a descriptive adjective, which identifies or is characteristic of or having the quality typical of people, or human beings. The word “being” a *noun*, is a person; also human being. That knowledge came from, well, three different dictionaries which I use in study. They serve me well. This share-croppers’ son for sure needs help.

With that said I want to pass along some data which I sought and it turned out to be very interesting and revealing. The word human or human kind, are found in the AV of the bible. However, the word man singular is used in scripture 2599 times. The word man’s is cited 73 times in the scriptures. The word person is referenced in scripture 1352 times. People are referenced in scripture 4 times, 2 times in the OT and 2 times in the NT. Peoples are referenced only two times in the NT (Revelation 10:11; 17:15).

In the Bible and also outside of scriptures there are words and limited word phrases which identify people as to their preference by their actions and desires etc, i.e, humble, the crowd, the multitude, mob, the populace, the millions, the scum, lower class, court, Squire, patrician of rank, or fashionable. Maybe that is enough for us to get it.

It is for each of us to realize fully our responsibility to the Creator of the Heavens and the earth. It can be realized at this juncture there are many directions that we could peruse and gain knowledge in this study on human beings. In fact there are so many that volumes of studies could be outlined and written but each one should conclude or include a roadmap that would help man to know and live dedicated by fulfilling in faith a life that ought (should, a must, have to), to be patterned by the dictates of God Word. There is however worldliness and other sins which comes into the arena of man’s life. It could be called many things but for this study we will be discussed, man, human being, or people.

5. Know that man (human being, people) is/are ignorant. I am not saying that to be ugly or insulting. No... and ignorant it is not a dirty word either. It is an identifying word and notice, “it does get attention”, and that is why I am using it. It is a strong word, which I think demands attention. It can be said that ignorance is unacquaintance of that which one should or must know or be aware of. To illustrate, one could be asked, “Do you know of the sin of omission and are you guilty of that sin?” Have you ever heard the statement, “Ignorance is bliss?” Bliss is defined; spiritual joy and or great happiness.

I have found myself ignorant, unaware if you will, many times and never once have I experienced happiness or joy upon knowing that I was ignorant of something to which I should have known of or about? Can this be? Yes, is my answer! There truly were many things, great and

wonderful things, of which I was unaware. I had never become aware; because of the lack of initiative or the neglect of someone to teach me. Are we our brother's (neighbor) keeper? Here is another example for you. There are thousands of dollars being held in the Treasury of the State, unclaimed by those to whom it belongs. Why? They are unaware of it. Are there any out there that do not know about Jesus and the joy which will come to their heart if we, you and I, take the inactive to deliver the recipe for joy which comes to hearts that receive the good news?

Dear one(s), it is vitally important to know, to be aware of the happenings of people of the past. Can it be realized that we learn by how, who, what, and yes why of the happenings of God's people in the days of long ago? And yes, it can be realized because it is true...we learn from History. I read of a wise-cracker's saying that we learn from history that we don't learn from history. We may not take advantage of that learning but nevertheless history is a good teacher. The OT is a great and wonderful teacher of many, many good history lessons, also including tragic lessons.

We learn from the history of the OT about God and our forefathers. That is the way our faith is developed, and desires created in the heart (mind) of man. Thus love comes into the heart and obedience follows. The "Word" is the roadmap to which man must follow. The age, in which we live, the twenty first century, the Christian dispensation is our pattern to follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

There are many areas and happenings that point out and identify ignorance, ignorant, and ignorantly. We need, yes, we need to know of them! Thus a listing of the scriptural location is hereby furnished.

IGNORANCE: (Leviticus 4:2, 13, 22, 27; 5:15, 18; Numbers 15:24-29; Acts 3:17; 17:30; Ephesians 4:18; 1 Peter 1:14; 2:15).

IGNORANT: (Psalms 73:22; Isaiah 56:10; 63:16; Acts 4:13; Romans 1:13; 10:3; 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1; 14:38; 2 Corinthians 1:8; 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; Hebrews 5:2; 2 Peter 3:5, 8).

IGNORANTLY: Numbers 15:28; Deuteronomy 19:4; Acts 17:23; 1 Timothy 1:13).

It is recommended that you use the KJV to first look up the cited scripture referenced above. Then if you choose to use other versions you will find the different word/words/phrases used ILO ignorance/ignorant/ignorantly. It is better to use the "ig" word, because really that is what is being discussed now. That is the opinion of the writer of this study. Sure everybody has an opinion, right wrong or indifferent. The think about any or all is that we need to change the thought as to opinions to "will", making sure that our will is that of Gods' will. Please give an AMEN to that.

6. Know that people are inferior to God. In saying that, there are no reasons to feel insulted. And please don't be, but be assured you are not being insulted. There is a blessing in the fact that God made people by His own design the way He willed they should be made. It can be said but I don't know that the majority of mankind, human beings, acknowledges there is a god. However they know not the living God, man's creator. Some may not know the inferiority of man to God or know that God is their creator. This is the project of this paragraph, so think with me as said in the Bible; "God is not man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. He has said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will not make it good?" Numbers 23:19; cf. 1 Samuel 15:29; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:17)

Yes we, man, are inferior to God. Please read Romans 9:14-32. There you will note that God's choice or will is controlled by God. There is no injustice with God. Paul tells us that God said to Moses, "*I will have mercy on whom I have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. So then it is not of him who will, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy*" (Romans 9:15-16).

There are great lessons in Romans 9:14-32, please read and give attention also to the truth that we must pursue righteousness by faith or we will stumble and not arrive in the place prepared for us by Christ who has gone to prepare a place for us. Not because many people do not believe that to be true does not nevertheless make it so. We do need God our creator! We do

need Jesus Christ our propitiator! How sad, how sad it will be when people hear the words, “*I never knew you*”—meaning lost and separated from the presence of God forever. Oh God, have mercy on me a sinner; please forgive me. Help me by giving me strength to walk the straight and narrow and not stumble; should I, please help me to be righted again and give me strength to go on in determination to do your will, in Jesus name and AMEN!

7. Know that people are frail, weak, and finite. Do we need to know that people, including you and me, must realize what is fully said when it is said of us that we are frail, weak, and finite? Do we realize that it is to our advantage to know? Do we know or realize our condition as it relates to our relationship with and to God if we possess these characteristics? We desperately need to know how to rid these from our personal characteristics or habits, because they are not good. And we need to know how they come to be a part of our life.

Let’s identify or define these undesirable characteristics or sinful habits in the biblical sense, looking first to “frail”. In Webster’s Compact Desk Dictionary, frail *adj.* has listed these identifying characteristics. One which caught my mind was, “easily tempted; morally weak.”

All we have to do is observe society and be up-to-date on current events (what’s happening in our neighborhood) to know and realize that people’s actions caused by their succumbing to temptation that the morals of today are equal to or worse than those of Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Genesis 13:13; 19:1-28). Is there any doubt in your heart about this?

We know that sin began early in the history of man. It began in the Garden of Eden when man’s weakness, his ease of temptation...thus sin befell man. Do you realize the question asked then by the LORD was WHY? Today the question is still. “Why?” All this is recorded for us in God’s Word, Genesis the third chapter of the history of man! Have you ever pondered that page of history and come up with an answer?

What was then and what is now the cause or why? When we fail by being tempted, what is the cause? Man is tempted you know (cf. James 1:13-14). Man is not tempted of God but “*God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted (tested) beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way to escape it*” (1 Corinthians 10:13). What shall we say then, in answer to the why or cause of the question? I submit to you the reason we are tempted is, we are being tested. If we fail we are weak and sin. If we use God provided way of escape we are made stronger, we will have passed the test and thus glorified God and remain in good standing as a child and servant of the LORD. That dear one(s) is a great blessing which God gave as result of making us “free moral agents.” Do you believe that? In believing shows how God loved us so much. ‘TIS TRUE! AMEN!

While frail and weak are synonymous to some degrees it will be good for us to evaluate them separately. It will be a challenge for me anyway, who has not been schooled to have the deeper understanding of Hebrew and Greek to maybe explain certain words in scripture to the understanding which would be most helpful. So let’s look at it together and talk about it. There is quite a difference in reading scripture that studying scripture. Sure you have to read to study, but study we must to gain the most benefit. Here then is the rest of the story.

I don’t think any of us folks would have the desire to be “weak.” Just the opposite is true I assume! We would rather desire to be strong... wouldn’t we? We can be strong and at the same time be weak... don’t you think. That is the choice we make individually, and it is a condition that is sad and dangerous. Why is that true you may ask? Does it wrap around the biblical truth that asks, “*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul*” (Matthew 16:26)?

“Strengthless” (impotent), is translated “weak.” A physical weakness (Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38; 1 Corinthians 1:27; 4:10; 11:30) is a judgment upon spiritual laxity in a church.

Spiritual laxity by individual is a condition of lacking, deficiency, shortcoming and is condemnable and in need of correction. This data/commentary is from Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary, p. 669. I am at this juncture hopeful that I have provided enough scripture and commentary to stir up your knowledge and curiosity. I challenge your desire and hope you will study and become more active in all areas wherein growth and strength are needed. You know that that we all need continual growth in all areas of responsibilities. Please help me. I confess I need to grow and become stronger. Helping each other will be a blessing and an accomplishment. Amen!

The last word in this number seven paragraph will prove to be interesting. It is the word "finite." The word is not found in the Bible. But, man 'O man the principles that are involved in its defining principles and their need of applications to ones life in service to the Lord are strong and needful.

The first meaning from the dictionary stands out if we will take the many applications which can apply to the Christian and non Christian. The definition of finite for us to make application of is, "Having definable limits." That to me point to the contract between God and man. God is, as we all should know, not limited in any way, but man is. Will you agree on that? In observing what man does in society you could think and question! How far, or is there no limits to his horrible acts and sinful things he does in violations of Gods' and mans' laws.

Man is weak, and that is, or should be known by all of us. Being weak is no excuse within that condition. Weakness in exercising duty to responsibilities results in neglect for which there is no defense. If one has no defense he has no protection one is shameful and accounted evil. This is not the will of God (cf. Matthew 7:18-22). It is not the right thing to do, more specifically it is *sin* (James 4:17). While you are there in James, look again at (James 2:10). Doesn't that put fear in your heart?

Synonyms of finite are interesting and warrant study and attention to application. They are listed here for your interest and opportunity for study:

[Synonyms of finite: limited, restricted, set, predetermined]

[Synonyms of predetermined: fixed, set, determined, and predestined]

[Synonyms of predestined: ordained, appointed, fate, programmed]

[Synonyms of ordained: intended, meant, and certain]

[Synonyms of intended: planned, aim, mean]

[Synonym of certain: convinced]

[Synonym of convinced: converted] [Synonym of converted: changed]

[Synonym of planned: deliberate] [Synonym of deliberate: conscious]

[Synonym of deliberate: premeditated] [Synonym of premeditated: thought-out]

Let us adopt a well planned programmed intended and predetermined résumé of our will to do that of God's will complete to the extent that we never violate the sin as describe in (James 2:10), and AMEN.

8. Know that people are inferior to God. Can it be that we know the truth, that we indeed are inferior to God? And that we even accept and confess that we are. Then we use that to try and excuse ourselves when we are guilty of not following the straight and narrow way. It seems that some people by just acknowledging that they don't know is an excuse to not obey (violate) a law or principle. Is that cause to be held accountable? We must (be required to) realize that not doing what we are blessed to be able to do and not doing it to the best of our best is a violation of an obligation. Shirking our duty is a serious offence. It is sinning...that is what it is. Not accepting our responsibilities and doing our best cannot be nullified by the mere (simple) saying. "I don't know how." Learning and growing (continually) is to each of us a duty, it is an ought to, to responsibility. However learning by our mistakes of not doing is by far the more costly way.

Please note that one of the definitions for inferior is “low quality.” Now the question! Is our love for God, our neighbor and Christ’s church low in quality? Is there such as low quality love? In earlier study writing I choose and assembly words to identify or define “love” and I am repeating it here: “An emotionally guided feeling and genuine (Godly) concern which causes us to act for the good and to satisfy the needs of others and to create the proper influence which will glorify God.” It is the best that I can do. If you have any different word changes or arrangement of words I welcome you to let me know. We can and do grow love. I suppose then, if that is true, and that was the way I approached it, that love does not come full-grown. I cannot however identify it by degrees. If any of you out there can and do, please let me know. It would be a great subject to talk about.

There are traps and pitfalls which beset those who do not know. Not knowing sometimes is called “ignorance.” And that has been spoken to already (cf. Job 12:3; 13:2). And man because of his weakness down through the history of his struggles has not been able to deal with. In the church the sin of strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance and disturbances have been exhibited in man’s action and association with one another. Would not that be identified as low quality and inferior and worldly? Worldly is defined or identified to be, “pertaining to or devoted to the affairs, pleasures, etc. of this world. Dear friend that is sin and it is condemned!

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in this present age, looking for the blessed hope (confident expectation) appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Let us make sure to understand ALL that has been written hear and hear these two last verses. “These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority (command). Let no one disregard (take no notice of) you” (Titus 2:11-15). This was the caution that Paul gave to Titus. It carries the same weight as a commandment of God!

It is true, God made us inferior to Him! He made is in the image of the Godhead and we became a living soul. The soul of man will never die! Each of all the living souls lives are made with the wherewithal (means) to live godly lives. It hearts to realize, there are countless souls in this world who disregard (take no notice of) the blessings which are presented in God’s word of the referenced verses of Titus 2. God’s mercy will someday be no more

9. Know that people are loved by God. (cf. Psalms 103:13-14; Proverbs 15:9; John 3:16, 14:21; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Ephesians 2:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:16-17; 1 John 4:7-12) Please read, study and let your heart make the application and commentary.

10. Know that people have value. (cf. Matthew 6:26-30, 10:29-31, 12:11-12; Mark 6:35-37, 9:42-47. Please read and appreciate the value we are to God.

11. Know that people are equal before God. (cf. Deuteronomy 10:17; Job 31:13-15; Psalms 33:13-15; Proverbs 22:2; Matthew 23:8; Acts 10:27, 28, 34, 35, 17:26; Romans 3:10, 11, 22-24; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 6:8-9). Please read, study and you will realize that God loves all people. All people must know of the love of God. We are to love all people too. Thus we must go and teach all peoples their responsibilities and fulfill ours’.

The scriptures and commentary that have been set forth in this study have been of great benefit to me. These wonderful scriptures and principles, which we studied, have been motivating to my conscience (my mind), and it is my prayer that you who read and study this lesson will accept all truth herein and that it will be a conscience (mind) server for you to do what is right in obedience to Jesus Christ—please know that it’s right!

“The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we expose or subject to our mind”. With confidence, I say that you are studying this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be faith growing and strengthening.

The scriptures and commentary that have been set forth in this lesson have been prepared to help all of us. Scriptures, principles cited, and suggested conduct, including the thought presented and discussions were to motivate true and honest hearts. It is hoped that you gained knowledge and growth in faith and love. It is my prayer that you read and study this lesson again, that you will accept the truth presented herein, and that it will be a conscience server (a helper) to you.

With confidence, I say that it is your desire to gain more knowledge, which is associated with responsibilities. This creates a desire to seek, to search more diligently, and to accept when found, and associate with and be an active part of abiding faithfully in the Lord’s Church.

The church that I am speaking of cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom, His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church of the Bible. You cannot pass through Heaven’s gate if you are not in His Body, (His Church), and it is the church, the only Church that you read about in the New Testament. This is the truth—is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view other writings on the Website, www.geocities.com/dubbyt. There are several writing posted on the Website. I recommend, and I am sure you will want to view the writing, titled, “The Church of the Bible, Christ’s Church”, it has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, “What Must I Do To Be Saved.” Please study both of these, with an honest and receptive heart, for truth and obedience. You will be blessed! God bless you for reading and studying this lesson. God loves you!

One last question, “How many “know-that’s” do you pay no heed to in your life to which you should be acting so as to know and do? Has this study caused you to recount? Take note to see if it will change after you study the attachment, page 9 below.

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Spiritual Fatigue

By: Bill Irby – Minister, West Hobbs Church of Christ, Athens, AL

We know that for the child of God Christian service is a “given.” We attend the services of the church and we worship God according to the pattern revealed in the Text. But we know that there is more. And as James said, *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin”* (James 4:17). The faithful Christian serves God.

The question of “How” Arises? The all-inclusive answer is that Christian service is comprised of doing those things that are required to live in this world as a faithful Christian. There are worship ‘services’ and services of other type and nature that we undertake as Christians service. Cutting the grass for a dear sister is not worship but is service. There is intellectual work that one does in the service of God (2 Timothy 2:15, Romans 12:2). Indeed, Romans 12 contains quite the handy list of actions and attitude that are components of Christian service.

So the “How” is not so hard to learn, after all. There is however a problem we face of, “How long?” We know that the Bible says “unto death” (Revelation 2:10). And we know that Paul fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith, (2 Timothy 4:6-8). But it is still hard for us sometimes, don’t you think? Paul knew that service could become difficult, for he encouraged us with these words: *“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”* (Galatians 6:9). Doing what is right can get to be tough things...if it hasn’t yet for you, it will.

So, we must fight this thing called “spiritual fatigue.” It is a dangerous item. Those who study these things for a living tell us that spiritual fatigue attacks the body (folks don’t feel good), the behavior (folks act badly), the mind (folks think irrationally), the emotions (folks lose control of themselves) and can lead all the way to a perilous level of self-doubt (to the point where a person just gives up).

How do we fight spiritual fatigue? First, it helps to accept the possibility that it can happen to you. Then remember that we are involved in a great cause and the most important purpose that can be undertaken by man, the cause of Redemption in Christ. Be stubborn about this. Remember Paul’s words to Timothy (who could get a little shaky from time to time): *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7).

Service to God is a blessing (Galatians 6:10). So serve we shall, even in the face of fatigue. We may grow tired but we will not quit. He didn’t, did He (Luke 22:42)?