

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “KNOW” GOD?

A prophecy made in Jeremiah 31:34 concerning the kingdom (church) of the Messiah was... that there would be no longer any need to teach people to know the Lord for “they shall all know me”. The fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in Hebrews 8:11.

Under the Law of Moses one born an Israelite was automatically a child of God by virtue of their physical birth. As they grew, they had to be taught to “know God”, i.e., they had to be taught concerning the one true God and His law and the necessity to obey that law. However, under the Christian dispensation, one has to “know God” and obey His will before he can become a child of God. It is just the opposite of that law under which the children of Israel lived.

To truly “know God” is to know his will, His law, His commandments, and faithfully obey them. In 1 John 2:3-5 we read. “...and hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But those who keep his word; in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” We are told in 1 John 4:8, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” And then we are told in 1 John 5:3 “...the love of God is to keep his commandments.” Are you keeping His commandments?

When one does not know God, he does not keep his commandments. In Romans 1:21 and 1 Corinthians 1:21 we read of some who, by their own wisdom, “knew not God” and therefore did not keep His commandments. In Galatians 4:6-9 we read of some who wanted to turn away from “knowing God” and go back to their old way of life. A definite contrast is drawn between those who do not obey (know not God) and those who do obey (know God). The Lord’s for me and you is to obey His gospel--the plan of salvation. To do that one must believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24; Mark 16:16), repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38), confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16).

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