

"Knowing God"

Part one of the series: "Grow: Becoming Who We Were Made to Be"

Sunday, September 9, 2018 • Pastor Kei Omo

"... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints..."
(Ephesians 1:17-18 ESV)

We come to know of God first by hearing what He has done.

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:7-12 ESV)

We know God personally when we respond in faith to what He has done by turning from sin and believing the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV)

Our default condition:

"...but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2 ESV)

Our divine provision:

"...Jesus came...proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15 ESV)

The gospel definition:

"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved...³that Christ died for our sins...⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV)

The gospel solution:

"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law...²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...²⁵to be received by faith." (Romans 3:21-25 ESV)

Knowing God continues by yielding to Him and following Him.

"Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he (Jesus) saw Simon and Andrew...casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.' ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:16-18 ESV)

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