

Order of Worship for 11/4/13, title, text, (Rob Rodney will bring the message); this is a communion Sunday. Dennis Hurt will officiate

Invocation: Ian Carlisle

Opening Song:

“Standing on the Promises” Song # 410

Welcome

Invocation: Psalm 100

Preparing the Heart in Song:

“Like a River Glorious” Song # 737
“Mighty to Save” Overhead

Offering & Offertory

Message: “Know God” 1 John 2:1-11
Rob Rodney

The Lord’s Supper

Song of Preparation
“Amazing Love” Song # 351
Invitation to the Supper
Prayer of Confession and Dedication
Consecration and Distribution of the Elements

Response to the Word:

“Knowing You Jesus” Overhead

Parting Word of Grace and Invitation to Prayer

No Sunday Evening in the Word Tonight

Alright, Have you seen?

Slide License Plate Holder **KNOW GOD**

- **No God...No Way**
- **Know God...Know Way!**

It makes you think....Do you Know God? Are you sure you Know God?

I am not saying No God, as if there was no God....or responding with No God!...as if being defiant.

So...what does it mean to Know something or someone?

Definition

Slide know

1. to perceive or understand as fact or truth; to apprehend clearly and with certainty / *So...Do you know God? Do you understand the facts about God...or the Truth about God? And then...Are you certain of your salvation?*

Slide to know is

- 2. to be cognizant or aware of** / *Are you fully aware of God? Are you cognizant or aware of your salvation?*
- 3. to understand from experience or attainment** / *Do you understand God and His salvation for you?*

And then.....Why should we wish to Know God???

I mean...We do live in a culture that totally rejects God and His existence.

Jesus said...Matt 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

Reason: Have there been times in your Christian walk that you doubted that you were in Christ? Maybe you are doubting now. Or was there sin that you carried in the flesh that made you doubt your closeness with Christ? Again...maybe that is now for you.

I remember as a new Christian, I had doubts about whether or not I really knew God. Especially when you find yourself in the same sin again and again. Can you identify with that?

Slide 1 John Message: **READ 1 John 2:1-2:11**

1 John 2:1-11 ESV

¹ "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. ⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes."

John wrote the letter of 1John for a two-fold purpose:

Slide **1 JOHN PURPOSE**

1. To expose false teachers ...”those who are trying to deceive you” This is evident in **(1John 2:26)** and

2. To assure believers of salvation Found in...**(1John5:13)** ...”you may know that you have eternal life”

Let’s focus our attention this morning on the latter reason: Assurance of salvation.

With the assurance of salvation, the question arises...DO YOU KNOW GOD?

Slide

KNOW GOD → Of course the list I am about to share is not all inclusive: Besides the obvious of reading your Bible and Praying to God..... It is a list of ways to become closer to God and know Him more.

1. OBEY COMMANDS 2. LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR 3.WALK AS JESUS WALKED 4. BE FRUITFUL For God

5. CRUCIFY SINFUL NATURE John 1:1 Stop Sinning!

Most of these are found in today’s passage...others we will address perusing other passages.

So...what do we know from 1John?

1John 2:3 - John tells us that we know him if we keep... or... obey his commands.

Does this mean that I must obey **all** commands **always**? Can I obey all of God’s commands? Of course out of obedience to God we do attempt to obey His commands. But...that could be difficult, if not **impossible** for us in the flesh. No, it refers to those who live their lives characterized by obedience to God. But again, let me be clear and say again...Out of obedience to God, Christians do attempt to be obedient to His commands.

What commands??? Let’s talk about God’s commands.

One might reflect upon the commands from the old testament. You might recall that God imposed 10 commandments upon His people to live by ...see Exodus 20:1-17 for these commandments. This should serve as a good refresher for most of us...

Slide **KNOW GOD The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17 ESV**

1. “You shall have no other gods before me.”

2. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You see...He shows love to those who love Him and keeps His commandments.

3. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

4. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

5. “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

6. “You shall not murder.”

7. “You shall not commit adultery.”

8. “You shall not steal.”

9. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

10. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” What about the neighbor’s BMW, Ipad, Private jet, Yacht?

What about other commands from the Lord?

Slide In the book of ...**John 13:34-35** Jesus states:

Know God→Love God and Neighbor

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This was not a request...but a **command**. But was this really a **new** command?

Slide Well, let's look at Leviticus 19:18 for the command from the Lord from the Old Testament

Know God→Love God and Neighbor

Leviticus 19:18 ESV

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

" Jesus' command is a new command though in the sense that Christ's death on the cross proves to be a great example of **divine** love. Also, as we grow in Christ and express love for one another it is this daily experience that reveals this newness of meaning.

Slide When asked, Jesus summed up the commands from the Lord in this:

Know God→Love God and Neighbor

Matthew 22:37-40 ESV

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.""

Love your neighbor as yourself...

To give an example of how this body is obedient to God's command...Let me take you back a year ago...This is the testimony of what the Rodneys experienced...

This is a great church family. I can speak firsthand of the love of God lived out in the people of this church.

Last year my wife experienced difficult health issues. She had been diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

Our response: Utter depression? Self reliance? Keep Quiet? Or trust God and expose ourselves to be vulnerable to others? We exposed the news – not easy. Our example was Jesus Christ...as he exposed himself to the world ...and to his disciples.

EFC/OCS/Family response: Tremendous blessing. Expressions of Godly Love.

What Love?

Know God→Walk as Jesus walked

1. **Visitation....** Families shared similar experiences and gave council regarding treatment.
2. Offers of **Rides** to appointments
3. **Meals...**wonderful meals brought to our home
4. **Cards**
5. **Flowers**
6. **Calls** of encouragement
7. **Support** with childcare
8. **Prayer**

Faced with adversity, EFC, OCS, and our immediate Family responded with a great love for others and walked as Jesus walked...selfless and caring for others.

So let me testify that this body of believers truly expressed the love of God by acting as God's hands and feet, blessing our family with God's love. We experienced God and saw the face of God and witnessed firsthand God's love poured out through His people. We were very blessed and extremely thankful.

Slide Of course the list includes prayers from this body. The word of God says

James 1:22 ESV

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

When it comes to loving thy neighbor, this body of believers are doers and not hearers only!

Now...Let's go back to our passage...1 John 2:4

Those who say they **know** God, but do **not do** what God commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

However, if a person obeys God's word, God's love is truly made complete in him vs 5.

How would you like to have God's love made complete in you? This parallels with

Slide KNOW GOD→WALK AS JESUS WALKED

John 15:10, 11 ESV

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Please inhale for a moment, now exhale. You do know what you are doing, right? Breathing...If you are in Christ, and breathing, God has a job for you to do. What are you doing about it? "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." Have you encouraged anyone this week? Have you shown God's love to someone this week? Are you praying for anyone this week? Do people identify you with and in Christ, or are you of this World?

Marble Story. I recall an email I received that originated in the nineties. It was about a man who figured that since most people live to be on average 75 years old...He calculated the amount of Saturdays that he had left until 75. On average 3900. If you are 55 you may have (God willing) just a bit over 1000 Saturdays left. Being over 55 he bought the 1000 marbles and put them in a jar and pulled one out each Saturday and threw it away. It was a way to help keep a perspective of the man's priorities. He found that by watching the marbles diminish, he focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.

The moral... You see...we all lose our marbles when we get older. So...Make the marbles you have left count.

Let's go back to our passage...

So, how do we know that we are in Christ? 1John1Vs 6...Whoever claims to live in Christ must walk as Jesus did.

How did Jesus walk? Was He proud, spiteful, arrogant, judgmental? No, not at all. Jesus was humble, forgiving, loving, kind, peaceful, patient, good, faithful, and gentle.

Do these attributes sound familiar? I hope you recognized that most of these characteristics are the Fruit of the Spirit from

Slide KNOW GOD→BE FRUITFUL

Galatians 5:22, 23 ESV

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Do you display this fruit as well? To walk like Jesus is to produce the very fruit that Jesus did.

During our family crisis...our support team walked as Jesus walked...How? Giving of themselves and their talents to bless our family.

Now we do have a warning from scripture to be aware of...

Slide KNOW GOD→BE FRUITFUL

Matthew 7:15-20 ESV

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

A pastor once told me that people can fake Christianity for a time...but you can tell true Christians from those who simply claim to be Christians...One way is to... Observe their fruit. Also, they may be able to fake obedience to God's commands for a short amount of time...but it will not last long term.

Slide **KNOW GOD → CRUCIFY THE SINFUL NATURE**

Galatians 5:24 ESV

"And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Have you put to death your sinful nature? Galatians 5:19-21 lists the acts of the sinful nature and state that they are obvious:

Slide **KNOW GOD → CRUCIFY THE SINFUL NATURE**

Galatians 5:19-21, 24 ESV

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Therefore: Crucify your sinful nature! Did you catch that?

You know what that is in your life.

Envision, if you can, yourself carrying your sins to the cross and crucifying them. Can you see that?

Christ took upon the sins of man to the cross and became sin itself on the cross for you and for me.

Therefore I want to encourage you to read your Bibles, study God's word, pray, and again to:

Slide **KNOW GOD →** By... **1. OBEY God's COMMANDS 2. LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. Definitely, Love your neighbor as yourself!

3. WALK AS JESUS WALKED 4. BE FRUITFUL 5. CRUCIFY SINFUL NATURE

This is all affirmed from John 14:21

Slide **John 14:21 ESV**

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

DON'T DOUBT THAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST. BECAUSE WITH...

Slide **NO GOD...THERE IS...NO WAY!**

But, if you... **KNOW GOD AND you will KNOW YOUR WAY!**

Now, let's visit the foot of the cross, the place that Jesus expressed Divine Love. Jesus came to teach us, leading by example what it means to be a Christian. We are to walk like Him....

Let's take a moment with God before we take Communion...

Remember that God loves you and He wants you to wholeheartedly love Him back!

For those of you who are in Christ, please reflect on the time that you first came to Christ. Spend the last few moments of this time with God thinking about the fresh fragrance of Christ, the Spirit of God, that came upon you in those early hours or days. Reflect and be confident in your walk with Christ!

For those of you who have not accepted Christ as your savior...Please consider Him now. Opportunities in this life are few. Consider God's love for you, think about His Son Jesus, how He came to Earth to testify to the truth of what the Old Testament taught. Jesus came as a sacrifice for our sin. He came in love. He came for you.

Slide You may ask...How do I become a Christian? Do not believe that good works saves you. Do not believe that you can buy your way into heaven. It is FAITH alone!

Acts 16:31 ESV

And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

What is that belief?...

Slide

1st that you are a sinner....Repent of your sin, turn away from your sin, rebuke it....

2nd Recognize that you need a savior and understand that Jesus Christ is that savior...

3rd Have faith and believe that Jesus died for you.

Choose Christ and believe that He is the only answer to salvation from sin. The great news about Jesus is that our **God is alive**...He did not stay dead in the grave. He conquered death and lives.

Think about this for a moment...

The same Holy Spirit that resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead abides in you! In us! Praise God!

Please, the kingdom of God is at hand. Now is the time. Maybe as you listened today you have never felt close to God. Maybe you do not know Him. Pray now. Ask God to speak to you, teach you, train you, and rebuke you, in righteousness. 2TIM 3:16

Trust God and obey His commandments. Love one another, and encourage one another.

Lastly, in your love response to God and His gift...Jesus Christ....What are you doing to serve God?

God has blessed each one of us with spiritual gifts. Are you using your gift to glorify God and His kingdom?

Don't wait for God to join you, join Him in the work He is doing. Whatever your gift is, plug yourself into God's work. Remember to walk as Jesus walked and be doers fo the word...not hearers only.

Pray...talk to God about where He wants you to be. Maybe He wants you to be His prayer warrior.

Remember, it is out of love that we serve God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you Know God? Are you sure you Know God?
2. What does it mean to Know something or someone?
3. Do you understand the facts about God...or the Truth about God? And then...Are you certain of your salvation?
4. Given our current culture and way of life...why should we wish to Know God?
5. Have there been times in your Christian walk that you doubted that you were in Christ? Maybe you are doubting now. Or was there sin that you carried in the flesh that made you doubt your closeness with Christ?
6. Can I obey all of God's commands?
7. While dealing with difficult times in your life, what is your response? Are these times that you experience God most?
8. Have you encouraged or shown God's love to someone this week? Are you praying for anyone this week? Do people identify you with Christ, or are you of this World?
9. Have you put to death your sinful nature? What does this take to accomplish?
10. In your love response to God and His gift, Jesus Christ, what are you doing to serve God? Are you using your gifts to glorify God and His kingdom?