

Knowing God- Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 5:6ff.
- B. Righteousness means being just and moral in our actions which receive through faith.
- C. Holiness refers to character resulting from right actions.
- D. Godliness is a God-like life that results from being devoted to God in one's heart.
- E. Ultimately, we are talking about obedience to God that flows out of love for God. Any other motivation for obedience is legalism. (Matthew 25:21)
 - 1. It will mean a lot to us to hear "well done" from Jesus.
 - 2. It will mean even more to Jesus to be able to say it.
 - 3. This is why we must hunger and thirst after righteousness.

II. Christ's love compels us to live a life that pleases him. (2 Corinthians 5:9, 14-15)

A. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness must be born from hungering and thirsting for God Himself. But without a hunger for righteousness, a hunger for God is hypocrisy.

B. If godliness is living a God-like life, what is God like? (1 John 1:5, 4:8)

- 1. God is absolutely pure. We are to be like God. (Ephesians 4:24; Romans 8:29)
 - a) Let's not be satisfied with the little sins in our lives. God isn't.
 - b) We will never be sinless in this life, but let us make that our objective.
- 2. God is love. (1 John 3:16-18, 4:7-11)
 - a) Love is always giving, often at great cost to itself. We need to emulate Christ's example in sacrificial love.
 - b) God went to great cost to forgive us. Love forgives, usually at great cost to itself.
 - 1) We must bear up under each others' failures and be patient when we are mistreated, because God has forgiven us more than we will ever forgive anyone else. (Matthew 18:21ff; Ephesians 4:1-2)

C. We must exercise disciplined training toward the objective of godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Peter 2:14)

1. You are going to be what you are becoming by the choice that you make every day. You are training yourself either toward wickedness or toward godliness.

D. We need to work at godliness depending on God. He has given us everything we need, so we can work toward this objective with hope. (2 Peter 1:3-5)

Application questions:

1. Why is forgiveness costly to us?

2. How can you train yourself to develop godly habits? Are there any specific good habits that you would like to grow in? What bad habits might need to be taken out of your life?

3. Where does the hunger and thirst for righteousness begin?
