

Section II: The Living & True God



Chapter 4: Knowledge of God



4. The Knowledge of God

I. The Possibility of the Knowledge of God

A. His incomprehensibility

B. His knowability (John 1:18, 14:7-9, 17:1-5)

- Knowing God vs. Knowing About God
(Philippians 3:1-10; cf. John 17:3)

4. The Knowledge of God

II. Characteristics of the Knowledge of God

A. Its Source

- God Himself is the Source of our knowledge of Him.

4. The Knowledge of God

II. Characteristics of the Knowledge of God

- A. Its Source
- B. Its Content

Content of the Knowledge of God

1. A full knowledge of God is both *factual* and *personal*.
2. To know facts about a person without knowing the person is limiting; to know a person without knowing facts about that one is shallow.

4. The Knowledge of God

II. Characteristics of the Knowledge of God

- A. Its Source
- B. Its Content
- C. Its Progressiveness

Progressiveness of Knowledge of God

1. God has chosen to reveal Himself progressively through human history.
2. The Old Testament is incomplete without the New Testament.
3. As we have already seen, *Biblical Theology* seeks to trace the progressiveness of divine revelation.

4. The Knowledge of God

II. Characteristics of the Knowledge of God

- A. Its Source
- B. Its Content
- C. Its Progressiveness
- D. Its Purposes

Purposes of the Knowledge of God

1. To lead people to the possession of eternal life (John 17:13; 1 Timothy 2:4).
2. To foster:
 - Christian growth with doctrinal knowledge (2 Peter 3:18, John 7:17)
 - And with a discerning lifestyle (Philippians 1:9-10).
3. To warn of judgment to come (Hosea 4:6).
4. To generate true worship of God (John 4:24; Romans 11:33-36).

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation

- We do not study God as we would a stone! As though we were His equal or superior to Him!
- See Job 38:1 - 40:4.
- Proverbs 1:7a: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation

- Ryrie: “If God did not initiate the revelation of Himself, there would be no way for man to know Him . . . In other scholarly endeavors, the human being often places himself above the object of his investigation, but not so in the study of God (*Basic Theology*, p.29).”

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation

B. God Gave Language for
Communication

- God chose to create using language
(Genesis 1:3, 1:6, 1:9, 1:14, 1:20 . . .)
- God sustains the world through language
(Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation

B. God Gave Language for Communication

- God gave language to Adam and Eve.
- Even after Babel, language still existed in abundance.
- The languages of Scripture are extremely important!

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation

B. God Gave Language for
Communication

C. He Created Man in His Image

- Rational beings with intelligence.
- Able to understand words and logic.
- Able to contemplate eternity and infinity.

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

- A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation
- B. God Gave Language for Communication
- C. He Created Man in His Image
- D. He Gave the Holy Spirit to:

4. The Knowledge of God

III. Prerequisites to the Knowledge of God

A. God Initiated His Self-Revelation

B. God Gave Language for Communication

C. He Created Man in His Image

D. He Gave the Holy Spirit to:

- Reveal the things of God (John 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:10)
- Distinguish truth from error (1 Jn 2:27)

End

