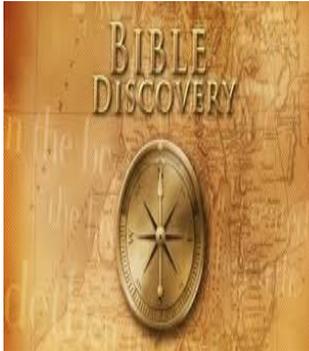


Knowing God



Three of the gospel writers ask the question, “*What does it get you if you gain the whole world yet lose your soul?*” (Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36; Luke 9:25) The answer itself is – “*nothing*”. The question itself is an **emphatic** negative. The **emphasis** is on what you lose, not what you might stand to gain. The loss of the soul is the loss of endless happiness, it incurs endless misery. The worth of the world is a finite quantity, and can therefore be easily measured and estimated. But the worth of the soul is ever-growing, is in a sense an infinite quantity, and can, therefore, never be estimated. No arithmetic can compute it;

The value of the world, then, is as nothing against infinity. Our true worth is valued through our knowing God! The Apostle asks, “*How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?*” The soul’s the command post if you would, for learning & knowing God. Yet the fact is the soul of every unconverted sinner is lost.

Without knowing God through Christ, it’s condemned already, under the law, and exposed to eternal destruction. A man need not go about committing every heinous sin. He’s already a sinner; he’s already condemned, awaiting his execution; and he has only to remain in this unrepentant, unbelieving state, and the loss of his soul is as certain as his existence.

**Our truth
worth is
valued in our
knowing God!**

Everyone seeking to know God should act in regard to the salvation of his soul, with as great prudence as people do in worldly matters. Prudent folks of business don’t allow things to be put off where they run a great risk. Consider, if you were to learn today your whole estate was to be lost but you had opportunity to protect it understanding every hour's delay exposed you to the further loss, would you lie down and sleep until you’d made all secure? No, you wouldn’t until you’d satisfied yourself *all was secured*. Now this is prudence in worldly matters. It’s not that surprising that one is prudent, wise, & energetic attending to such matters in such circumstance. But for what reason do we fail to act with the same prudence in regard to our spiritual concerns? Why have we neglected

**Why’ve we neglected to
know God & His mercy?**

to know God & His mercy, His grace & salvation?

It has been said that if you should lose your worldly estate, you might, by industry, economy, & greater prudence, recover yourself; obtaining at least comfort for this life. But remember if you lose your soul, *your loss is eternal*; there’s no remedy, no cure, no quick fix for it; there’s no recovering yourself; you’ve lost all that is truly valuable; you’ve incurred all that is dreadful & horrible & miserable, *and* that for all eternity.

What must you do to rectify this agony and neglect? How can you ensure you don’t lose your soul? **REPENT!** Have a change of heart! Turn around! First & foremost, *it’s essential you know God!* We can believe the atom-holding, earth-spinning, galaxy-sustaining, life-giving Source of everything wonderful God can do whatever He likes - even the devil believes God exists and is able to do all things. Our doubts give us trouble when it comes to believing that God’s special love makes Him long to use that power on our behalf.



Few of us doubt God does amazing things. We must accept He’s a very present help in trouble; whether inward or outward, of soul or body; the Lord helps His people during struggles to bear them, & He helps them out of troubles. We’re poor helpless creatures in ourselves; none can help us except the Lord, who made heaven and earth; and He does help - presently, speedily, & effectually.

The weak link in our faith is believing He *would do* such things for little ol' *you* and *me*. We *suspect*, we *doubt*; we've *bought into the lie* that we're not sufficiently *special* in the Almighty's eyes to warrant such attention. Oh yes, we state with the crowd, '*God loves everyone*,' but we're thinking that love been spread pretty thin. Why would God want to focus his omnipotence on me? Psalm 46 encourages us to hope and trust in God; in His power and providence, and His gracious presence with His church in the worst of times. Do I need an all-expense paid trip to heaven before I'll accept God thinks I'm important to Him? Christ's shed blood proves God's pledge of total commitment. Am I pronouncing such sacrifice inadequate; am I demanding additional proof? Must God send a bolt of spiritual electricity through me before I'll believe He wants to bless me? Must I neglect a love beyond measure and fail to seek to know God?

**Knowledge through
the unchangeable
character of God is
the only bedrock
upon which our
spiritual life can be
surely footed!**

When we proclaim God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble, we're acknowledging Christ is a present Help, *One* whom we've found to be so; the *One* always near; we can't desire anyone or anything better. We're saying let us not be with those at the troubling of the waters who build their confidence on the floating foundation of the world; rather let those who are led to the Rock not be alarmed, but there find firm footing. Knowledge through the unchangeable character of God is the *only* bedrock upon which our spiritual life can be surely footed. Our life needs not spectacular discovery or confirmation but spectacular commitment. **We need to know God!** He has opened Himself to us in Christ.

Having been purchased by Christ's shed blood, having been found & redeemed from among those lost, you're the focus of God's divine love and acceptance; you're filled with the majesty of Almighty God; you're spiritually enthroned with Christ in his heavenly palace; you're granted the highest level of access to the greatest Person, and the holiest place. You're the work of divine hands, made perfect in Christ Jesus. No sooner do we speak of *Perfection in Christ* than we are compelled to extol the life of Christ, "*Who*," as Peter declared, "*did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth*" (1 Peter 2:22). But what about us as followers of Christ; aren't we to be perfect too without sin and guile? Can we agree with the Psalmist who wrote, "*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*" [Psalm 139:14] The same God who fashioned the ocean, who made mountains & laid out the rivers is our refuge & strength - a place we flee for safety; a source of strength in danger. Let us therefore come and see the works of the LORD and not be in fear of Him; let us be perfected in Him; let us be still, let our hearts be opened & know He is God. Let us come to "*the river whose streams make glad the city of God.*"

Jesus says if we've seen Him, we've seen the Father. So then if God is in our hearts, dwelling richly within us, if we've received Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, if we have confessed our sin and turned from our wicked ways, let us trust rather than be afraid. To borrow from the language of teaching, God's speaking to us today in the "positive, present tense" meaning it applies to our daily lives in the present time - daily - everyday - now - and He's telling us, "*the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*" Throughout Psalm 46 we hear all that God has done, and does, for His people. Yet nothing's greater than the truth He has chosen to reside with us, to be our Heavenly Father & love us. Once you've understood that God loves you, wants fellowship with you; you'll want to turn away from pursuing anything that hinders, holds you back, from knowing God. You'll bravely pursue life in Christ & not fear tomorrow; you'll cease to worry about the world, its resolve, its demands and trust in God.



Top fashion model Claudia Schiffer, from Germany, is creative director of her own clothing label. Schiffer rose to popularity becoming a household name during the early 1990s as one of the world's most successful models being nominated as the most beautiful woman in the world. Yet as a teenager, she concluded from her lack of popularity at school she wasn't beautiful. We make a similar mistake in assuming that if we're not popular with the world, we lack

what it takes to make it in a big way with God. Nothing could be further from the truth. We're invited to be with Him; we're invited to Know God always in the holy place where the Most High dwells – where we will be like the waters which flow, the streams which make glad the city of God. We've God's Word on it. And that is worth an eternity of security.

If you would like to learn more about eternal security which is only found in the Lord Jesus Christ, give Mt Brydges Baptist Church a call at 1-419-317-8659 or via our website email address office.mbbc@xplornet.com.

May God richly bless you!