

KNOWING GOD—- THE KEY TO FAITH AND CHANGE

Php 3:8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

Amos 9:13-15

"Yes indeed, it won't be long now." God's Decree.

"Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won't be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills. I'll make everything right again for my people Israel:

"They'll rebuild their ruined cities.

They'll plant vineyards and drink good wine.

They'll work their gardens and eat fresh vegetables.

And I'll plant them, plant them on their own land.

They'll never again be uprooted from the land I've given them."

God, your God, says so."

REVIEW: A TALE OF THREE CITIES

UNDERSTANDING THE PROGRESSION OF OUR PASSION

Ac 17:6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; 7 and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." 8 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. 9 And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

1. EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH A FIGHT- THESSALONICA

THE PLACE WHERE THEY GAINED THE REP FOR TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN WAS A PLACE OF WARFARE!

GARDEN, WILDERNESS, GETHSEMANE

THE MOST IMPORTANT WEAPON IS THE SWORD - EPH. 6.17/18

Eph 6:17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

THE RHYTHM OF THE SWORD FIGHT

2. THE JOURNEY CONTINUES AS WE CONFORM - BEREIA

Ro 12: 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3.

FIGHTING GAINS THE LAND FARMING PRODUCES WEALTH FROM THE LAND

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

TRANSFORMATION IS THE GOAL

TRUTH MAKES US FREE JOHN 8.31,32

Jn 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

TRUTH KEEPS US FROM LIVING IN THESSALONICA

3. WE DEVELOP A VOICE TO INFLUENCE - ATHENS

1. PHILOSOPHERS WERE INTERESTED IN WHAT HE HAD TO SAY

THEY LOVED KNOWLEDGE BUT WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH TRANSFORMATION.!

2. THEY UTILIZED THEIR GODS FOR BLESSING

WE WILL SACRIFICE TO ATHENA SO SHE CAN BLESS US!

3. PAUL INTRODUCED THEM TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Ac 17:22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, `TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

KNOWING GOD — — GODS DESIRE FROM THE BEGINNING

JESUS CAME TO RECONNECT MEN TO GOD

KNOW THE HEART OF GOD

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YOU CANNOT DECLARE WHOM YOU DO NOT KNOW

Ac 19:11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. 13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. 18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

SIMPLE STEPS TO KNOWING GOD

THE SIMPLE STEPS I WANT TO SHARE ARE NOT THE ONES YOU EXPECT. I HAVE DISCOVERED PEOPLE WHO PRAY AND READ THE BIBLE WHO ARE UNKIND, SELF CENTERED AND RELIGIOUS.

GOD TOLD WHY..... GROWTH CANNOT HAPPEN ALONE!

Jn 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Ac 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

SPENDING TIME WITH BELIEVERS OUTSIDE OF WEEKEND WORSHIP

SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

SERVING IN MINISTRY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

**PARTICIPATING IN MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES
DISCOVERING PURPOSE**

CATECHISM- WHAT IS THE CHIEF AIM OF MAN? TO GLORIFY GOD AND TO ENJOY HIS PRESENCE FOREVER

WHATEVER I AM DOING AND WHEREVER I AM GOD GETS HONOR AND GLORY

Mt 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

LIVING GENEROUSLY

I NO LONGER LIVE FOR MYSELF BUT FOR HIM....

Jn 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

GIVING IS THE KEY TO RECEIVING

Lk 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

RELEASE OF SUPERNATURAL INFLUENCE ACTS 1.8

FOR GODS GLORY AND THEIR GOOD

YOU ARE THE REASON FOR PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS

30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,