

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD
4. THE KNOWABILITY OF GOD
MATTHEW 11:27

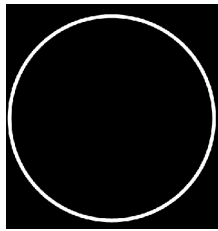
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WE CANNOT FULLY KNOW GOD

- Psalm 145:3 ...his greatness is unsearchable.
- Psalm 147:5 ...his understanding is beyond measure.
- Psalm 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.
- Romans 11:33 Oh the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

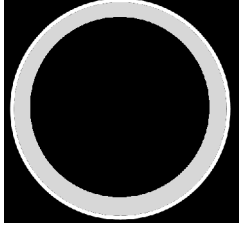
WHAT CAN WE KNOW OF GOD?

Nothing?



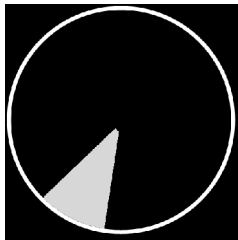
WHAT CAN WE KNOW OF GOD?

Hyper-systematic?



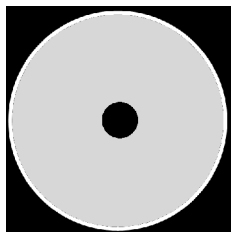
WHAT CAN WE KNOW OF GOD?

Hyper-peculiar?



WHAT CAN WE KNOW OF GOD?

Most Things?



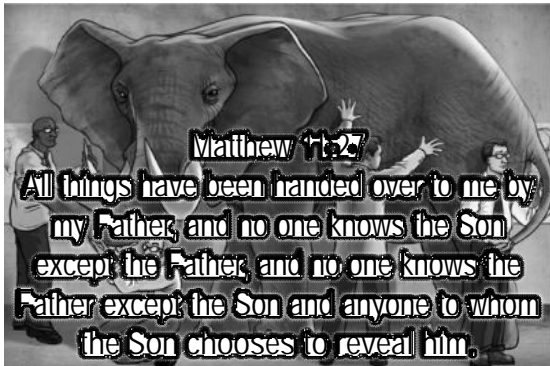
WHAT CAN WE KNOW OF GOD?

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.



WHAT CAN WE KNOW OF GOD?

- We can know...
 - Some things about God
 - Significant things about God.
 - Deep things about God.
 - Things about God truly.



WE CAN KNOW GOD

His Power and Nature - Romans 1:19-20
For what can be known about God is plain to [unrighteous men], because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived...in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

WE CAN KNOW GOD

His will - Colossians 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...

WE CAN KNOW GOD

His salvation - 1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE BIBLE ITSELF

BECAUSE	THEREFORE
Knowledge about God is presented plainly throughout the Bible without hesitation	We can gather such knowledge plainly
This knowledge is often presented propositionally	We can take it as propositional truth
The revelation of the Bible is set in history	We can learn from it like we learn from other history

SOME ARE PREVENTED FROM KNOWING

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Galatians 4:9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God...

WE KNOW GOD BY KNOWING THE MAN JESUS

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

John 1:17-18 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

HUMAN WISDOM ALONE FAILS

1 Corinthians 1:18-21 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart...Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

SPIRITUAL AND INTELLECTUAL

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

SPIRITUAL AND INTELLECTUAL

Luke 8:10 [Jesus] said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'"

Jeremiah 9:23-24

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE?

- Significance, weightiness, and conviction of what the Christian knows from the Bible
- Strength and grace to consider it, apply it wisely and put it into practice
- Not the false dichotomy of "head" vs. "heart" knowledge

ATTITUDE AND CERTITUDE

- We can be certain about a thing and show it
- We can be certain about a thing and reserve it
- We can be uncertain about a thing
- 1 Peter 3:15 ...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

- Any more questions?
- Discussions, questions, disputes welcome - Patrick Szalapski
 - E-mail szal0003 (at) umn.edu
 - Find me on Facebook or Twitter (@szalapski)
- Before we go...

WE MUST SEEK TO KNOW GOD

Philippians 3:8-11 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...
