

“Know That The LORD, He Is God”

The title of this article is a quote from one of the Psalms of David. Do you remember which one? This Psalm tells us to worship God with thanksgiving and joy, to remember that it is He that has made us, not ourselves. The first and foremost teaching and commandment in the Bible is to remember that there is only one God and that we are to love him, to be devoted to him, with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our strength. It is essential that we know and love this God. Jesus tells us that our life depends on truly knowing God in his prayer to his Father.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. - John 17:1-3 ESV

We need to know God, who he is and what he does. We need to know and understand that he alone is God. So in this Newsletter we are going to look at this

essential and vital Bible teaching that we must know and love our God. The readings for this quarter can help us do this. The Psalms of David help us to “see” and know God. Look at Psalm 33 – what can we learn about the God that David loved?

For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. - Vs. 4

The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. - Vs. 5

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. - Vs. 6

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. - Vs. 9

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. - Vs. 11

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, - Vs. 18

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. - Vs. 20

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. - Vs. 21

May your unfailing love be

with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you. - Vs. 22

Notice how David mentions several times God’s unfailing love, his faithfulness, and the purposefulness and trustworthiness of his words and plans. In your readings ask the question each day, what does this teach me about my God? How does this help me to know and love God?

A Psalm of praise.

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come before his presence with singing!

Know ye that the LORD, he is God! It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Be thankful unto him and bless his name!

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100 KJV

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A FOLLOWUP TO THIS NEWSLETTER

If this newsletter has inspired you to want to read and study more about God, then you will want to get the *free* booklet that is offered by DailyBibleReader:

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This little booklet tells the reader what the Bible reveals about the nature and character of God. It will help you better understand and appreciate the heavenly majesty and bring his reality in clearer focus to us as Bible readers.

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info@dailybiblereader.com or leave a message or text at: 757-898-5069

Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. KJV

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

Job was a man who thought he knew God. The first chapter of Job describes him as one who feared God and turned away from evil. He was blameless and upright. He was also very blessed with wealth, a large family and respect of all who knew him. When troubles came he accepted them at first with words such as “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” But as time went on and suffering continued he started to question God and his understanding of God.

I say to God: Do not declare me guilty, but tell me what charges you have against me. Does it please you to oppress me, to spurn the work of your hands, while you smile on the plans of the wicked? Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as a mortal sees? Are your days like those of a mortal or your years like those of a strong man, that you must search out my faults and probe after my sin-- though you know that I am not guilty and that no one can rescue me from your hand? - Job 10:2-7 NIV

As time went on Job charged God with injustice and wanted answers from God.

And Job continued his discourse: "As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made my life bitter, ... I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity. - Job 27:1-2, 5 NIV

"Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense--let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing. - Job 31:35 NIV

Job, in his anguish, forgot who God is. In his mind he became God. He saw himself as righteous and just—and questioned the Almighty. He wanted the Almighty to answer to him. Read God’s answer to Job in chapters 38 to 41. And then read Job’s response to God when he comes to truly understand and “see” God in chapter 42.

Even the best of us can easily be like Job. We think we know and understand God. We talk about his love and his might and his righteousness. But it is very easy for each of us to forget who God is. When things become uncomfortable, out of our control, or when we are going through real suffering and affliction, do we question God’s love, his wisdom, his justice? Do we become angry with God and want or even demand answers? Have we forgotten that God is God the Almighty and we are not?

It is so very easy to lose sight of who God really is. Who it is that has all sovereignty. We have this human tendency to see things from our own perspective and our own desire to control and have things “our way”. Even Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46) had to pray for help to forget his own will and do his Father’s will. Daily we need to learn about our Father, to come to truly know him, to learn to trust and love him, to know his power and might. Daily in the readings of His word, the Bible, we can find help to do this. The readings for this quarter include the history of the people of God in the books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges. This gives us lessons and insights into God’s care and his interactions with his people. Psalms 33 through 73 are included in this quarter. The love

the Psalmist had for his God that is so evident in his writings helps us to know, to love, to appreciate our God.

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you.

My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory.

Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!

I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. You satisfy me more than the richest feast.

I will praise you with songs of joy. I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night.

Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.

I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely.

- Psalm 63:1-8 NLT

In the New Testament the writing of Paul the Apostle in the letters to the Corinthian church helps us to see and know our God who has brought us life and salvation through his son Jesus.

Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ...

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“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

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And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.

And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 18-21 NLT

But most of all, in the Bible readings for April through June, let us read carefully the gospel records of the life of God's Son in the books of Mark and Luke. From him we can learn to walk each day in humility, in meekness, in love and complete trust in the Father in every way. It is Jesus' example that leads us and guides us to know our God and to know that he is God.

They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him,

and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak." - Mark 14:32-38 NLT

Even Jesus had to go through a time of suffering so that he would be perfected. In meekness and humility he obeyed his Father. By trusting in his God and humbly obeying him even in suffering and death, Jesus triumphed. He forever is exalted to God's right hand and has been made Lord and Messiah.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed

on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:8-11 RSV

This humility of Jesus brings us back to the story of Job. After God questioned Job, Job repented in dust and ashes. He knew that God is God. That God is sovereign. The experience of humility brought him to God.

Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.'

My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." - Job 42:1-6 NIV

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. - Psalm 46:10-11 NIV

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“GOD WILL BE ALL AND IN ALL”

In the previous Newsletter we discussed the prophecy that Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 24 concerning the time of his return to the earth. Both Mark and

Luke also record the words of Jesus concerning his second coming and what to expect at that time.

"But in those days, following that distress, " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the

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“God Will Be All In All”

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stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ... "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. - Mark 13:24-27, 32 NIV

What does the return of the Lord Jesus Christ mean? What will happen at that time? Why is he returning? Jesus doesn't give us that information in his prophecies at this time but Paul the Apostle gives us a short synopsis in his first letter to the church in Corinth. It is found in I Corinthians 15 in what is known as the "resurrection chapter".

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits;

then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NIV

Notice what Paul prophesies will happen when Jesus returns:

All those who belong to Christ will be raised from the dead as Jesus was raised from the dead.

Jesus will destroy all dominion, authority, and power that is not of God for Jesus must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Jesus will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

The Son himself will be subject to him who put everything under him.

God will be all in all.

The world now is in rebellion against its creator. People do not like to submit to the God of heaven and earth. But God is sovereign. He is God and there will come a time when only those who belong to God will live and God will dwell with them.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:3-5 NIV

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“THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD, THE FATHER”

There is no greater truth. There is only one God. He is the only God. After Israel crossed the Red Sea to escape from Egypt and the gods of Egypt, they spent 40 years in the wilderness in preparation for entering the land promised to them. God knew that when they finally conquered and lived in the land that they would be tempted to worship the many worthless gods of the Canaanite

peoples who were still left there. So through Moses, God warned them and instructed them that He alone is God. Do not forget this. Over and over it was repeated to them:

"To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him. "Out of heaven He let you

hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. ... "Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. - Deuteronomy 4:35-

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There is Only One God, The Father

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36, 39 NKJV

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. - Deuteronomy 6:4-6 NKJV

And God, of course, was right. Follow the history of Israel in the books of Joshua and Judges. Time after time they forgot God and wanted to worship and trust the idols and images of stone and metal. Why would they think that idols made by human hands could save them from their enemies? Why would they forget the God who had rescued them from slavery, brought them through the wilderness, helped them conquer their enemies, and provided abundance in the land for them?

Yet it happened continually. Even Solomon, the one who received every blessing possible both materially and spiritually, forgot God and made temples for the gods of his wives. Why did they have such a hard time with this one essential truth: There is only one God and He is sovereign?

We may look back at Israel and wonder how they could be so stupid. Why did they not get the lesson? Yet this history of Israel was written down for our benefit. We need to hear this.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is

written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." - 1 Corinthians 10:5-7 NIV

Read carefully 1 Corinthians chapter 10. The new believers in Corinth came out of a culture strong in idol worship yet notice what Paul talks about as examples of idolatry. It was indulgence, immorality, and an attitude of ingratitude and dissatisfaction that were symptoms of idolatry.

We live in a culture now where God's existence is denied, many times vehemently by those in leadership positions. Atheism, agnosticism, and secular humanism are strong in our education, scientific and political systems. In addition to this, indulgence, immorality, and materialism are ingrained in our society. Yes, we do live in a world full of idols. The idols may not be made of wood and stone but they are made from human wisdom and desires. And they are just as useless as the idols of ancient times.

But let us be careful lest we spend our time pointing the finger at others and not realize how easy it is for each of us to forget this one essential teaching. There is only one God and he is sovereign. What does that mean? When questioned, Jesus gave this answer:

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love

him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions. - Mark 12:28-34 NIV

God is the only God. He is our sovereign. He deserves all our devotion, all our love, all our obedience, all of us. Anything else is idolatry. When we want our own way, when we want control, when we disobey, that is idolatry.

Jesus is the only one who has been completely faithful to his God. Only Jesus completely and totally loved his Father with everything in him and that love for his Father showed itself in complete obedience to him.

"...but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. " John 14:31 NIV

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. - John 15:10 NIV

Please, Jesus, help us to walk as you have walked. Help us to completely and always love and obey our Father as you have done.

But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life. - 1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT

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Daily Bible Readings for April, May and June

Day	APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa
1	Deut 13,14	Mark 6	Judges 3,4	1 Corinth 11	Job 38,39	Psalm 59
2	Deut 15,16	Psalm 33,34	Judges 5,6	1 Corinth 12	Job 40-42	Luke 17
3	Deut 17,18	Mark 7	Judges 7,8	1 Corinth 13	I Sam 1. 2	Luke 18
4	Deut 19,20	Mark 8	Judges 9,10	Psalm 48	I Sam 3. 4	Psalm 60. 61
5	Deut 21,22	Mark 9	Judges 11,12	I Corinth 14	I Sam 5. 6	Luke 19
6	Deut 23,24	Psalm 35	Judges 13,14	I Carinth 15	I Sam 7. 8	Luke 20
7	Deut 25,26	Mark 10	Judges 15,16	Psalm 49	I Sam 9.10	Luke 21
8	Deut 27,28	Mark 11	Judges 17,18	I Corinth 16	I Sam 11. 12	Psalm 62. 63
9	Deut 29,30	Psalm 36,37	Judges 19,20	Psalm 50	I Sam 13. 14	Luke 22
10	Deut 31,32	Psalm 38,39	Judge 21 Ruth 1	Psalm 51. 52	I Sam 15. 16	Luke 23
11	Deut 33,34	Mark 12	Ruth 2-4	Luke 1	I Sam 17. 18	Luke 24
12	Provb 17,18	Mark 13	Provb 29,30	Luke 2	I Sam 19. 20	Psalm 64. 65
13	Provb 19,20	Mark 14	Provb 31	Luke 3	I Sam 21. 22	Psalm 66. 67
14	Provb 21,22	Mark 15	Job 1-3	Psalm 53	I Sam 23. 24	II Corinth 1
15	Joshua 1,2	Mark 16	Job 4,5	Luke 4	I Sam 25. 26	II Corinth 2
16	Joshua 3,4	Psalm 40,41	Job 6,7	Luke 5	I Sam 27. 28	II Corinth 3
17	Joshua 5,6	1 Corinth 1	Job 8,9	Luke 6	i Sam 29-31	Psalm 68
18	Joshua 7. 8	1 Corinth 2	Job 10,11	Psalm 54,55	Eccles 1. 2	Psalm 69
19	Joshua 9,10	1 Corinth 3	Job 12,13	Luke 7	Eccles 3. 4	II Corinth 4
20	Joshua 11,12	Psalm 42,43	Job 14,15	Luke 8	Eccles 5. 6	II Corinth 5
21	Joshua 13,14	1 Corinth 4	Job 16,17	Psalm 56	Eccles 7. 8	II Corinth 6
22	Joshua 15,16	1 Corinth 5	Job 18,19	Luke 9	Eccles 9.10	Psalm 70. 71
23	Joshua 17,18	Psalm 44	Job 20,21	Luke 10	Eccles 11. 12	II Corinth 7
24	Joshua 19,20	1 Corinth 6	Job 22,23	Luke 11	II Sam 1. 2	II Corinth 8
25	Joshua 21,22	1 Corinth 7	Job 24,25	Psalm 57	II Sam 3. 4	II Corinth 9
26	Joshua 23,24	1 Corinth 8	Job 26,27	Luke 12	II Sam 5. 6	II Corinth 10
27	Provb 23,24	Psalm 45	Job 28,29	Luke 13	II Sam 7. 8	Psalm 72
28	Provb 25,26	1 Corinth 9	Job 30,31	Psalm 58	II Sam 9. 10	Psalm 73
29	Provb 27,28	1 Corinth 10	Job 32,33	Luke 14	II Sam 11.12	II Corinth 11
30	Judges 1,2	Psalm 46. 47	Job 34,35	Luke 15	II Sam 13.14	II Corinth 12
31			Job 36,37	Luke 16		

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