

## Sermon Title: God is Known

### Getting to know the God who has made Himself Known

At the beginning of this year our Consistory established 8 goals for our church for 2024. One of those goals was/is — *“To lay down a doctrinal floor of historical foundational truths by creating statements that emphasize the core beliefs of our faith for the purpose of unity, clarity, and sharing.”* We have 6 so far...

- **GOD IS, WAS, & FOREVER WILL BE** — We believe God is eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present, all-good, and the source of all-good. He is one, and yet He reveals Himself in Scripture in three equal persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
- **GOD CREATES** — We believe that God is the creator of the heavens, the earth, and all mankind. He is the very source of, and sustainer of all life! *“In Him we live and move and have our being”* (Acts 17:28). He sovereignly rules over all He has created — working all things together according to His good and perfect will!
- **GOD SPEAKS** — We believe that God speaks through His creation (Romans 1:19-20), and more clearly through His Word — both written (Scripture - 2 Timothy 3:16) and incarnate (Jesus — John 14:10). His self-revelation is sufficient for us to truly know Him, and to live our lives in response to Him.
- **GOD IS WITH US** - We believe that God took on flesh & dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14), as the only begotten & eternal Son of God (John 3:16). Jesus is Immanuel - God with us! (Matthew 1:23).
- **GOD UNDERSTANDS** - We believe that when Jesus walked this earth, He was both fully God (conceived by the Holy Spirit), & fully human (born of the virgin Mary). Therefore, God understands our greatest human needs & can address them through His Son (Hebrews 2:14; 2:17; 4:15; 7:26-27).
- **GOD PROVIDES** — We are all people in need of a Savior, because we are all sinners in need of saving! God has provided an all-sufficient Savior in Jesus Christ, who suffered, was crucified, died, & was buried, to pay the penalty we all deserve for our sin (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 3:16)!

I am taking the time this morning to share these statements again, because if we want unity, clarity, & sharing to take place we need reminders & repetition!

We need to see these truths, hear these truths, recite these truths, if we hope to ever truly know them, unite around them, and share them!

& it's not just about knowing them, it's getting to know the God they reveal!

Today's attribute of God is that God is known! That He makes Himself known to us in a variety of ways! We may not be able to know Him fully, but we can know Him truly! Because He is a God...

I know it can be challenging to get to know someone you can't see, touch, have a conversation with over coffee, etc. But there are still ways that we can truly know Him! The same ways we can truly get to know anyone who we aren't together with in person. Use me as an example...

- 1) If you want to get to know me, get to know the church I lead! You can observe my work, the fruit of my labor - listen to the sermons, observe our worship, read our statements of faith as a church, etc.

In the same way, we can get to know God from the fruit of His labor — Creation! There is much that all of creation reveals about our Creator!  
**Romans 1:19-20, Psalm 19:1, Genesis 1:26**

If you want to get to know God, get to know His creation!

- 2) If you want to get to know me, get to know my story! Hear from my mom, my brother, my sisters... the people that knew/know me best and who walked with me throughout my life!

In the same way, we can get to know God by getting to know His story — Holy Scripture! God speaks with clarity about Himself in His Word!  
**John 1:1, Isaiah 55:10-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

If you want to get to know God, get to know His Word (His self-revelation)!

- 3) If you want to get to know me, get to know my family!... my children... my bride! My children reflect me in many ways (for better/for worse)... And my wife is my greatest ministry, b/c our relationship is to be a reflection of Christ & His bride (the Church) - **Ephesians 5:25-29.** WWE

In the same way, we can get to know God by getting to know His Son (**John 10:30, John 14:9, Hebrews 1:3**), & His other children (the bride of Christ) — though we are very much a work in progress!

God can be known! But there is a difference between “knowing information about God” and “knowing God personally”! Regeneration & faith is what is needed to truly know Him, & that is a work that God's Spirit does within us!

In what ways this week can you get to know God better?

**John 17:3**

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**Romans 1:19-20** - <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in the things that have been made...

**Psalms 19:1** - The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above<sup>Ⓜ</sup> proclaims his handiwork.

**Genesis 1:26** - <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

**John 1:1** - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Isaiah 55:10-11** - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**2 Timothy 3:16** - <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God<sup>Ⓜ</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Ephesians 5:25-29** - <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever

hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

**John 10:30** - <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

**John 14:9** - <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father..."

**Hebrews 1:3** - <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...

**John 17:3** – And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent.