

It's Not Who You Know But Who Knows You

- 1) Today's Attribute is Foreknowledge
 - a) We already learned that God is "all-knowing"
 - b) But 'knowledge' has many levels
- 2) 'Omniscience' has to do with knowing facts and details
- 3) 'Foreknowledge' is a matter of relationship
 - a) Ephesians 1:4: "Foreknowledge" means having an "established relationship with" and in the Bible is always used in reference to God's personal relationship with specific people
 - b) Romans 9:10-12: Foreknowledge is directly related to "Election" - the fact that God chose us before we chose Him
 - i) John 6:44: In fact, we cannot know God unless He "draws us to Himself"
 - ii) Ephesians 2:8: The faith it takes to believe in Jesus Christ in a way that leads to salvation is itself a gift from God
 - iii) Romans 1:24, 26, 28: God never "chooses" to make a person unable to believe in Him - He simply "hands them over to their own desires"
 - iv) Ezekiel 33:11, Romans 11:32, 2 Peter 3:9: His goal is to work in such a way that eventually as many people as possible may be saved
 - v) Romans 3:27: But we can never credit our own goodness - or even our own decision to "accept Christ" - as the reason we are saved
 - vi) John 15:16, 1 John 4:10, 19: We are saved totally because of God's choice to save us and Jesus finished work on the cross
- 4) 2 Timothy 2:19: God knows those who belong to Him, in whom faith is working salvation (John 10:27-30)
- 5) Matthew 25:1-13 (v. 12): God also knows those who do not belong to Him - who have no relationship with Him -

who are 'just along for the ride' wanting the benefits of the Gospel with no commitment

- 6) Advantages of Foreknowledge
 - a) Romans 8:29-30: Those God foreknew He also:
 - i) Develops into the character of Christ
 - ii) Revelation 3:20: Calls into relationship with Him
 - iii) 2 Corinthians 5:21: Declares not guilty because the debt of their sin was paid on the cross
 - iv) Ephesians 5:27: Works to totally purify them, in soul (as we defeat sin by the Spirit's help) and body (at the resurrection)
 - b) Genesis 3:8-10: We need not hide from God
 - c) Matthew 6:8, 32, Romans 8:26-27: When we don't know what/how to pray, God knows our need and the Spirit intercedes on our behalf
- 7) Romans 11:2: To be under God's judgment does not mean God has rejected that person - it may be a step in the process of coming to faith
- 8) Only God knows whom He has chosen
 - a) 1 Samuel 16:8, Revelation 17:14: Not all who are called are chosen
 - i) The 'Called' are those who hear the Gospel
 - ii) The 'Chosen' are those who respond in faith
 - b) Their response is the **evidence** of their faith; the **cause** and **origin** of their faith is God, who has the authority to choose whomsoever He will
 - c) Acts 15:14, 18:10: Those not demonstrating faith now may still be chosen (Saul/Paul)
 - d) Matthew 13:3-9: We must show God's love and truth to all and leave the results to Him
 - e) Ephesians 3:12, 1 John 5:13: We are to be confident in God's relationship with us ...
 - f) Matthew 7:22-23: ...but never take it for granted
- 9) Example of God's foreknowledge
 - a) Genesis 45:3: Joseph, the unrecognized brother
 - b) Jeremiah 1:5: Jeremiah, chosen before his birth