



Wednesday nights
Country Bible Church
February 19 to June 24, 2020
God Incomprehensible

Lesson Schedule:

- February 19 — Introductory Lesson
Feb 26 — ~~Welcome to the Weight of Majesty (video)~~
March 4 **Knowing the God Who is Incomprehensible (video)**
Mar 11 Discussion and Review – some teaching
Mar 18 Knowing the God Who Cannot Change (video)
Mar 25 Knowing the God Who is Infinite & Eternal (video)
April 1 Knowing the God Who is Everywhere (video)
Apr 8 Knowing the God Who is Almighty (video)
Apr 15 Discussion and Review – some teaching
Apr 22 Knowing the God Who is Knows All (video)
Apr 29 Knowing the God Who is Rules All (video)
May 6 Knowing the God Who is Holy (video)
May 13 Knowing the God Who of Wrath (video)
May 20 Discussion and Review – some teaching
May 27 Knowing the God Who is Good (video)
June 3 Knowing the God Who is Love (video)
Jun 10 Knowing the God Who is Patient and Zealous (video)
Jun 17 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – no class
Jun 24 Make up day

“The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God.”¹

Jeremiah 9:23–24

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

¹ J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 19

NOTES FROM THE VIDEO²Biographical sketch – John Knox (10 minutes)Teaching

Review – last week, King David was determined to meditate upon or contemplate the glorious splendor of God’s majesty.

How can truths like God’s attributes/perfections be made practical in my life?

Thomas Manton: “We do not meditate that we may rest in contemplation, but in order to obedience.”

Meditation on God is meant to move us to obedience.

Biblical doctrine should not be the destination, but the road to a destination.

Knowing God can be the greatest adventure presented to us, but when we don’t apply the things He is teaching us – day after day – then we become disillusioned; Christianity becomes stale and stagnant.

If this settles in, you might not give up on Christianity completely, but you lose the yearning, hoping, stretching; you begin to fill up again on the world.

Is that where you are at right now?

Does the thought of 12 weeks (18 total) on the attributes of God honestly seem to you to be a bit of a drag?

The cure to this disillusionment is to get back to the life of a follower. We are not students in a classroom with a desk – rather we are on a journey with the King and each day He is revealing Himself to us; He is showing us where to walk. Each day we have the opportunity by the great aid of the King to respond wholeheartedly.

We want to take the truths we are learning, dust them off with hard work and make room in the life for application (even if we have to use a pick axe and a piece of spiritual dynamite). We cannot afford to allow the truths that God is giving to us to remain on the surface of life.

Paul the apostle helps us here. He helps us understand what truths are significant for us. And not only what these truths are, but how to bring these truths down into everyday life.

Colossians 1:15-18 (NASB)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place (preeminence) in everything.

² Media Gratiae, *Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty*, Week 1 – “Knowing the God Who is Incomprehensible”

In this passage, Jesus is:

- the image of a God that is otherwise invisible
- the firstborn – or heir – of all creation
- creator all things
- sustainer of all things (holding all things together)
- the One who existed before all things
- the One to whom all things exist for
- the Head of the church (governmental head, living head, representative head)
- the firstborn from the dead – that is, the beginning of the great resurrection
- where all of God (full “God-ness”) is united to the human body and soul
- preeminent – having first place over all of creation

Paul shares these majestic truths, and then shares a concern for this young church. He wants them to take these truths, and believe them so deeply that they find courage, to be knit together in love around these truths, and even to reach the treasure of full assurance in Christ.

The concern – this young church was in danger (Colossians 2:8 NASB):

He says, “See to it, that no one takes you captive...”

- “See to it...”
 - o This is a command not a suggestion – “Take great care, church...”
- “...that no one takes you captive”
 - o “Captive” = kidnapped – “Don’t let anyone kidnap you!”
 - o This would be false teachers with a “little slant on things”
 - o Their message – add something to Jesus for fullness of life

How do you combat this?

Colossians 2:6-7 NASB

⁶Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, ⁷having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

There are four metaphors for Christian progress or growth in this passage.

- Walk
- Root
- Build
- Establish

Do all of these, with gratitude.

None of these (metaphors) are the starting place.

The starting place is in verse 6 where he says, “You have received Christ...”

Once you have received Christ, you are not able to walk, root, build, establish with gratitude.

Have you received Christ, the Christ of Colossians 1:15-18?

In Colossians chapter 1 there is a description of how they received Christ – verses 3-6.

Are these verses descriptive of your reception of Christ?

- Have you received Christ in such a way that you have a faith that can be reported?
- Do you have a love for Christians that can be heard about?
- Is there, not a perfect but a genuine and continual production of Christ-like fruit in you?

This is the starting place.

For those who have received Christ, there are four pictures in Colossians 2:6-7 for progress in your faith and life.

- WALK – You must walk in His truth
 - o Every time we open the Scriptures and have God revealed to us, you’re going to have to walk in those truths
 - For instance, you will have to walk in the truth of God’s infinite character, His all-power, His all-presence, His self-existence.
 - To walk is a metaphor for how you live – the countless choices you make each day that you don’t even think about – the normal stuff of life
 - What we are learning about God, must make its way to the common, ordinary choices and decisions of everyday life.
 - o To walk also carries with it a sense of destination.
 - There is a definite destination for every truth we learn about God from the Scriptures – the destination is love – loving God and loving others
 - So, you must take the truth of God’s character (the weight of His majesty) and bring it down to your everyday little choices, so that the destination of loving is reached
- ROOTS – You must be rooted in Christ
 - o There is a positional change – being uprooted from the old self and replanted in the new in Christ
 - o You’re now rooted in Christ – planted in the soil of Jesus of Nazareth
 - o Every day, we must sink down our roots purposefully into Christ – into the truths of God
 - o That is, we nourish our souls on God
 - o Set the roots of your soul in the truths we will be studying!
 - Otherwise, they will just stay concepts
 - o If you don’t do this, you will sink the roots of your soul into something else
- BUILT – building up a life on these truths
 - o God’s work for us – on the cross – is the foundation
 - o God then gives us truths, like bricks, that we are to build on that foundation
 - o As we study these characteristics of perfections of God, you will have to build something with them
 - o Your thoughts
 - Your leisure thoughts tell us a lot about ourselves
 - *Where does your mind drift to when it wanders?*
 - You should build a godly thought life with the truths that you are learning about God

- Your words – *are they being built on this foundation?*
- Your list of dos and don'ts should be built on this foundation
- Your family life – how you relate, your plans... should be built on this foundation
- Your workplace – *how do you work differently from a non-believer?*
- The church – objective truths of God become part of our worship experience

- At the end of our 18 week series, “Behold Your God,” there should be a new construction project. It won't be complete or perfect, but an evident job site with heart construction going on.

- ESTABLISHED – being established in His truth
 - This is the idea of maturity – established in the truths of God's Word - anchored
 - We take these truths that God brings to us and we mature in them
 - We are to grow up in our Christian thinking
 - *How does this happen?*
 - We have to study
 - We get to know God from every chapter from the Bible
 - We aren't satisfied with half-digested concepts
 - We labor to know what God is showing us about Himself and our own hearts until we know them, are shaped by them, are established in them
 - Hebrews 5:11-14 – immature believers are those who haven't applied what was shared previously
 - Psalm 111 - the person who applies the Word of God really understands God

All of these (walk, rooted, built, established) are to be done with an overflowing gratitude. It is impossible to really progress without gratitude.

- For the unbelievers, truths about God will be terrifying and offensive (no gratitude!)
- For the believer – we see this BIG God and we think, “This is my God, this is my King, my Friend, my Savior, my Father!”
- This should provoke a deep seated gratitude in us... a sweet happiness.
- *Do the things we are studying make your grateful?*

Deuteronomy 28:47-48: “Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

As you see who God is, your hearts should move to gratitude and your hearts will be glad you belong to this God... your God!

Interviews