



Wednesday nights
Country Bible Church
God Who is Good

Lesson Schedule:

- August 5 — Introductory Lesson (Also done on February 19)
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
August 12 — Knowing the God Who Cannot Change (video)
Aug 19 — Knowing the God Who is Infinite & Eternal (video)
Aug 26 — Knowing the God Who is Everywhere (video)
September 2 — Knowing the God Who is Almighty (video)
Sept 9 — Discussion and Review — some teaching
Sept 16 — Knowing the God Who is Knows All (video)
Sept 23 — Knowing the God Who is Rules All (video)
Sept. 30 — Knowing the God Who is Holy (video)
October 7 — Discussion and Review (brief) — “Holiness and Justice” video by R.C. Sproul
Oct 14 — Knowing the God Who of Wrath (video)
Oct 21 — Knowing the God Who is Good (video)
Oct 28 — Knowing the God Who is Love (video)
November 4 — Knowing the God Who is Patient and Zealous (video)
Nov 11 — 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 VIDEO²

Biographical sketch – Edward Payson

Teaching

Jesus: “What do you think about the Christ?”

So... what do you think?

You may feel a struggle...

- A hypocrite may try to make their weak admiration of Christ seem like full blown love
- A true Christian has a hard time finding words to express the inexpressible

Jesus – to Peter: “Peter, do you love me?”

These two questions are significant!

Think about these!

What do you think of the Lord Jesus Christ?

The greatest or chief command given to us from God: “Love the Lord your God with your whole being!”

Jesus said of several in His day: “Your mouths are close to Me, but your hearts are far from Me...”

That’s a good place to start for our own consideration – when it comes to loving Christ, think... “where is my mouth; what do I say about Him?” And, more importantly, “where is my heart?”

A distinguishing mark of Christianity = love for the Lord Jesus.

The Christian creed – “There is none, but Christ.”

1 Corinthians 16:22 – “If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed...”

- Paul is speaking to everyone in all times and all places, but specifically to those in the church
- “Accursed” – this is a severe warning against nominal Christianity

What is love for Christ?

- Love = the esteem and delight you have for an object or person, reflecting the value of that object or person
- We owe an unrivaled and supreme love to Christ (because He is of supreme value)

² Media Gratiae, *Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty*, Video 4 – “Knowing the God Who is Everywhere”

- Do I have the kind of love the Bible describes I should have for Christ?
 - o Not a perfect love... it will always be less than He deserves
 - o Is there a real existence of love for Christ in your heart?

What does this love look like?

- 1.) Real love for Christ is always more than words
 - o There must also be a heartfelt obedience (John 14:15, 21; 15:14)
 - o When we look at our feelings for Christ, we must consider – “do my feelings for Christ produce a new loyalty and allegiance to Him?”
- 2.) Real love for Christ is more than just keeping rules, but includes a longing to be with Christ
 - o We see this in human relationships (we want to spend time with the people we love)
 - o We long for the nearness of Christ!
 - We look forward to the day when we will see Him face to face
 - We also have a daily yearning... “come today, come often!”
 - o Do you look forward to...
 - Spending time with Him personally?
 - Spending time with Him with your faith family?
 - o Are you slow to come to the Scriptures and quick to leave them? Are you satisfied with a distant Jesus?
- 3.) Real love for Christ means loving Christ’s family
 - o 1 John 3:14; 4:20
 - o Do I love my fellow believers?
 - More specifically... you love what you see of Christ in them that draws you to them?

This love for Christ will spread to all of life – your affections, your thinking, your serving. And, you will love the whole of Christ – admire all of Who He is. It is easy to adjust Jesus to fit our present lifestyle (and we will love that Jesus!). But this is not loving the real/whole Christ.

We must be careful to enjoy just the benefits of Christ and miss out on the person of Christ.

It is our nature to love Christ, because of the new birth. It is not the way to be saved, but a fruit and evidence of being saved.

Stop and stir yourself!

- Your Christ is infinitely good – incomprehensible, cannot be added to or reduced or measured or even adequately described
- Your Christ is immutably good – it can’t be amended or altered or adjusted
- Your Christ is timelessly and presently good – at all times in all places

- Your Christ is sovereign and all-powerfully good – unlike the kindness of the best people we know – Christ will do all His goodness He desires to do
- Your Christ has a holy and righteous goodness – it can never be polluted or morally shifted
- Your Christ has a faithful and patient goodness – no matter how often we come to him or are unfaithful

Do you see that not loving this Christ is the height of spiritual insanity. It is being blinded to the most beautiful of beings; cold in front of a blazing fire; death to the most charming of voices; unresponsive.

For us who aren't sure about our love for Christ?

- Go to God – He is the savior of sinners!
 - o Bring your cold, unloving heart to God without excuses... lay it before Him
 - o Beg Him that He would for His glory do in you what only He can do – give you a new heart

Christian, loving Christ comes naturally (part of our new spiritual nature), but not without effort

- How do you increase your love for Christ?
 - o The better you get to know Jesus, the more you will see His loveliness
 - o Stay close to the King
 - o Be often to the King
 - o Cling to Him
 - o Study His perfections
 - o Don't hide in the shadows – get out into the sunlight of Christ

Interviews