

Delighting The Lord

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“But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.” (JEREMIAH 9:24)

I. People Are Designed To Glorify God with Knowledge and Understanding

A. According to the SHORTER CATECHISM, man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or *whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 10:31)

B. Believers understand all things in relationship to God. “Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.* My flesh and my heart faileth: *but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*” (PSALM 73:25-26)

C. Understanding and knowing God are essential to the process of glorifying. “Thus saith the LORD, *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this,* that he *understandeth and knoweth me,* that I *am* the LORD which exercise LOVING-KINDNESS, JUDGMENT, and RIGHTEOUSNESS, in the earth: for *in these things I delight,* saith the LORD.” (JEREMIAH 9:23-24)

II. God Designates the Features of Knowing and Understanding

A. Knowledge must start at the point of salvation; there is no happy way of knowing God without being saved. “In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be *justified, and shall glory.*” (ISAIAH 45:25)

B. Paul cautions believers against glorifying something apart from God. “But *God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus* Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” (GALATIANS 6:14)

C. Knowledge is not some undefined term; it refers particularly to knowing the Savior. “And *this is life eternal, that they might know thee* the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (JOHN 17:3)

D. Knowledge comes by command from God. “For *God, who commanded the light* to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light *of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus* Christ.” (2 CORINTHIANS 4:6)

E. God transforms knowledge through understanding into righteousness. “Which *executeth judgment for the oppressed*: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth *the eyes of the blind*: *the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down*: the LORD loveth the righteous: *The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.*” (PSALM 146:7-9)

F. Knowledge changes, but when it does not change toward God it will change away from God. “Who *changed the truth of God into a lie*, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” (ROMANS 1:25)

III. God Delights in Genuine Glory

A. God has not been mysterious or reserved about what He wants from His people. “*He hath shewed thee*, O man, what *is good*; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to *do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly* with thy God?” (MICAH 6:8)

B. People have missed something when their knowledge of God does not include His overwhelming kindness. “Who *is a God* like unto thee, *that pardoneth iniquity*, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? *he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.*” (MICAH 7:18)

C. Deists and other infidels who willingly blind themselves to the presence of an active and benevolent Providence totally misunderstand God; the real world is one in which God executes judgment on the wicked and both defends and maintains His friends. “So that a man shall say, *Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.*” (PSALM 58:11)

D. God delights in the changed heart. “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*” (EZEKIEL 36:26)

E. To glorify, God first get your own heart right with Him or expect the most dreadful consequences. “*Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart*, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: *lest my fury come forth like fire*, and burn that none can quench it, *because of the evil of your doings.*” (JEREMIAH 4:4)