

Knowing God Ch 7

- I. Packer says that many find the Bible fascinating but also confusing, and therefore difficult to be fed for not understanding. Do you find this to be true?
 - a. Different time for different people?
 - b. Does it matter what the Bible says?
 - c. Moses, David, Jesus?
- II. How does the Bible apply to our lives 2, 4, or 6000 years later?
 - a. How does the Bible line up with the world today?
 - b. Is it relevant?
- III. God is God, and... PEOPLE ARE STILL PEOPLE
 - a. Nothing new under the Sun...
 - b. History?

"Some Christians seem to resign themselves to following afar off, believing the Bible record, indeed, but neither seeking or expecting for themselves such intimacy and direct dealing with God as the men and women of the Bible knew."

"Such an attitude, all too common today, is in effect a confession of failure to see a way through this problem."

IV. **How do we deal with this sense of remoteness? Is it real? Or is it as Packer says**

an illusion? Verses for reflection: Mark 4:11-12; Isa 6:9-10; 43:1-13; Jer 5:20-28; Matt

13:10-17; Luke 8:4-15; John 12:37-50; Rom 11:7-10; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 2 Timothy 3:7

“led on by various impulses”

V. Possible causes

a. Looking at people instead of God as the measure

i. Those dumb Israelites...

ii. If we don't put ourselves in their shoes, it can be easy to judge

1. This tends to keep the context “out there”

b. Not understanding the integral nature of Scripture

1. “Scripture interprets Scripture”

2. The Bible is one story of one God, with one purpose.

c. Perhaps not really knowing Scripture and the associated context

1. The American church tends to know a lot of verses, but often

does not know the verse before or after, or the functional

context.

2. Why is this important?

VI. Application – We combat feeling distant with engaging

a. Do what I do know. (James 1:21-25)

b. The ark crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3:13-17)

c. Repent and Confess,

i. “I don't know” (James 1:5-6)

ii. Help my unbelief...

iii. Help

VII. For me, I mess this up often

a. Pride

b. Busyness (self consumption)

c. Self sufficiency

d. Lack of humility (self worship)

e. Entitlement?

VIII. God does not change - Our surety is found in His stability

a. One God

i. WSC #5 There is but one only, the living and true God

ii. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Deut 6:4

b. Unchanging

i. Complete

ii. Perfect "He cannot change for the better ...or the worse" (A.W. Pink)

iii. Eternal

c. His Character does not change

i. We change often, depending on any number of things (H.A.L.T.)

ii. Because of His Grace, He does not relent, He waits for our return.

(Isa 30:18)

iii. In our returning, He removes illusions of every kind

1. answers in reading and meditation

2. considering His character and deeds according to His word.

d. His truth does not change

- i. Job 38:1-12
- ii. Factual
- iii. Evaluative
- iv. Governing
- v. Eternal (Isa 40:8)

e. His ways do not change p79 .4

- i. Discussion?
 - 1. He gets ALL credit and glory
 - a. Rom 9:14-16
 - b. Exodus 33:19

f. His purposes do not change

- i. That we see Him, Old & New Testament
 - 1. Red sea, Jordan, Jericho, Goliath (1 Samuel 17:46-47) (Kings 8:57-61)
- ii. Our surrender
- iii. Faith / obedience
- iv. Salvation
- v. Worship

Conclusion, p 80