

Single Alliance

Knowing God- Pt. 2

I. Introduction

- A. Last week I began a message called “**Knowing God**”.
- B. We saw that we are having more and more indirect communications in our lives. This is also true towards God. Many are substituting religious T.V. programs, ipod messages, and radio broadcasts for personal time with God in prayer and bible study. The **knowledge** of God is being substituted for **knowing** God. This is robbing the church of power in this last day
- C. This week I want to look at the condition of many in the universal church. This is not true of everyone and is not true of all in this room. For many here this morning you need to take this as an encouragement to keep going in the right direction, for others some of these things will apply, and to others all of it will apply.

II. The sleeping Church

A. Rev. 3:14-20

1. **Laodicea**- means “righteous people”. These are saved people.
2. Vs. 16- They are lukewarm- lukewarm is somewhere between room temperature and hot. Something had to have once been hot to become lukewarm. These people used to be hot towards God but now are not. They are not cold, but many are going through the routine with God.
3. Vs 17- They are more focused on things, comfort of life, and the distractions of life than they are on God.
4. Vs. 18- They are lacking in practical holiness. They have taken off their robes- they are naked. They are in the dark so they do not recognize their true condition.
5. Vs. 20- Their biggest and foundational problem is that they are lacking intimacy with the Lord. He wanted to commune with them. He knocks on the door. This door is not to a house but a bedroom door. The Lord is in our house, but he wants into the inner chamber of fellowship with us.
6. We see what the Lord is doing- He is outside knocking, but it does not tell us what is going on with His bride on the inside and what

she is doing in her room. Song of Solomon shows us! Song of Solomon is a lovely book that pictures Christ and His bride, the Church.

B. Song of Solomon 5:2-5

1. The Shepherd King is outside His bride's bedroom knocking.
2. She is sleeping! She is asleep but her heart is awake. Although she looks dead her heart is awake and beating. She is alive, just sleeping. The Word of God speaks of believers that are not personally fellowshiping with God on a regular basis as sleeping.
 - a. **Eph. 5:11-14**- awake from among the dead and Christ will give you light. In the Bible the source of light is the Word of God. God sees those who do not spend time with Him in prayer and in His Word as being asleep. With no time in God's presence then the lights are out and hence you tend to fall asleep in the dark! If we will return to the Word Christ we will experience the light coming on and we will awake!
 - b. **Col. 4:2**- Pray and stay awake. If we stop praying we will fall asleep!
 - c. **Luke 22:46**- wake up and pray
 - d. Again if we are not spending time in God's presence then the lights are out and we will fall asleep.
3. The bride as taken off her robe and is in the comfort of sleep. When we cease to spend personal time with the Lord we will take off our robe of practical holiness. We will live grungy lives!
4. She makes excuses for not spending time with the Shepherd King. She says:
 - a. It is too tedious to get up and put her robe back on. Many think living for God way too hard. Many think they have to get their robe on first before they can spend time with God. No, by spending time with the Lord, this will cause our robe to be put upon us!

- b. She says she has washed her feet and does not want to get them dirty. She says that it just is too much bother for her to answer the door to spend time with Him. This is so sad!
 - c. In the dark many think their lives are fine and clean. She did not want to open the door the light and see that she had dirty feet. When we come before the Lord His light exposes things wrong in our lives, but the Lord wants to cleanse those things from our lives!
 - d. The Lord calls us His beloved, His perfect one! He calls us perfect but wants to get rid of the dirt from our feet and lives!
5. What wakes her up is the knocking. Have you heard the Lord knocking on your heart to spend time with Him? He is knocking every morning and every night. Sometimes if we fail to hear his knock then we wake up when circumstances turn bad in our lives. Don't wait for that!

III. The Atmosphere of knowing God

- A. The Lord wants to spend alone time with you with all other distractions removed.
- B. We can pray throughout our day, but we are usually doing all the talking. The Lord voice is a still small voice. He wants our undivided attention.
- C. We need to click off the T.V. – [*you can TiVo your favorite program for later!*] open up your bible and go before you Lord in prayer.
- D. Prayer and being quiet are disciplines. Many Christians today lack discipline! They cannot be quiet and focus on anything for very long. Life today is training us to be very unfocused! With some much information flying at us we are not taught to focus and concentrate on just one thing for very long.
- E. **Ps. 46:10**- To know God intimately we must learn to be still. Knowing God takes place in stillness of heart and mind.
- F. **Is. 30:15**- In returning and rest we will experience our salvation, and in quietness we will find the strength of God!