



KNOWING THE LIVING

GOD

PAUL DAVID WASHER



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"Paul Washer's study guide on the doctrine of God is the best introductory work known to me."

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— Voddie Bauchum Jr., Dean of the Seminary at African Christian University

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Introduction

METHOD OF STUDY

The great goal of this study is for the student to have an encounter with God through His Word. Founded upon the conviction that the Scriptures are the inspired and infallible Word of God, this study has been designed in such a way that it is literally impossible for the student to advance without an open Bible before him or her. The goal is to help the reader to obey the exhortation of the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 2:15:

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

Each chapter deals specifically with an aspect of the nature and work of God. The student will complete each chapter by answering the questions and following the instructions according to the Scriptures given. The student is encouraged to meditate upon each text and write his or her thoughts. The benefit gained from this study will depend directly upon the level of the student's investment. If the student answers the questions thoughtlessly, merely copying the text without seeking to discern its meaning, this book will be of very little help.

Knowing the Living God is primarily a biblical study and does not contain much in the way of colorful illustrations, quaint stories, or even theological commentaries. It was the desire of the author to provide a work that simply points the way to the Scriptures and allows the Word of God to speak for itself.

This workbook may be used by an individual, small group, or Sunday school class. It is highly recommended that the student complete each chapter on his or her own before meeting for discussion and questions with the group or discipleship leader.

EXHORTATION TO THE STUDENT

The student is encouraged to study biblical doctrine and discover its exalted place in the Christian life. The true Christian cannot bear or even survive a divorce between the emotions and the intellect or between devotion to God and the doctrine of God. According to the Scriptures, neither our emotions nor our experiences provide an adequate foundation for the Christian life. Only the truths of Scripture, understood with the mind and communicated through doctrine, can provide that sure foundation upon which we should establish our beliefs and our behavior and determine the validity of our emotions and experiences. The mind is not the enemy of the heart, and doctrine is not an obstacle to devotion. The two are indispensable and should be inseparable. The Scriptures command us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind (Matthew 22:37) and to worship God in both spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

The study of doctrine is both an intellectual and devotional discipline. It is a passionate search for God that should always lead the student to greater personal transformation, obedience, and heartfelt worship. Therefore, the student should be on guard against the great error of seeking only impersonal knowledge instead of the person of God. Neither mindless devotion nor mere intellectual pursuits are profitable, for in either case, God is lost.

THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

The New American Standard Bible is required to complete this study. This version of Scripture was chosen for the following reasons: (1) the unwavering conviction of its translators that the Bible is the infallible Word of God; and (2) its faithfulness to the original languages.

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

How can any man or angel write an adequate book on the subject of God Himself? It would be an easier task to count every star in the heavens! With this in mind, I acknowledge that whatever is found to be holy, good, or helpful in these pages is the result of the grace of God alone. Knowing something of the weightiness of the subject matter, I have written this workbook with fear and trembling, considering the words penned in James 3:1:

"Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness."

I would like to thank my wife Charo, who is growing to be "strong in the Lord," and my four children, who are able to pull me away from my work with a glance. I would also like to thank HeartCry staff member Forrest Hite for his diligent and meticulous editing of the several different manuscripts that he has received. His contributions to the arrangement and overall readability of this work are as significant as they are appreciated. My thanks also are extended to the entire staff at HeartCry, who have been a great encouragement throughout the process of this book's publication, and to Pastor Charles Leiter of Kirksville, Missouri, whose insights were invaluable.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Knowing the Living God is derived from Paul Washer's previously published work, The One True God; it has been massively expanded, revised, and modified. Due to the close relationship between the two books, those who have studied The One True God will likely recognize some of the material in this workbook. Portions of it are relatively untouched (e.g. Chapters 10-14, 48), while some of it is brand new (e.g. Chapters 1-2, 4, 42-47), but most of it falls between these extremes. It is my belief that Knowing the Living God will prove beneficial to all, regardless of familiarity with The One True God.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDIES

The Attributes of God by A.W. Pink

The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer

Knowing God by J.I. Packer

The Existence and Attributes of God by Stephen Charnock

Theology Explained and Defended by Timothy Dwight

Behold Your God: Rethinking God Biblically [workbook and DVD series] by John Snyder

The Holiness of God [workbook and DVD series] by R.C. Sproul

The Attributes of God [teaching series] by R.C. Sproul

The Doctrine of God by John Frame (for advanced students)

Optional Study Schedule

Week One: The Knowledge of God and the Doctrine of the Trinity

Day One: Chapter 1 Day Two: Chapter 2

Day Three: Chapter 3, Section 1 Day Four: Chapter 3, Sections 2-4

Day Five: Chapter 4

Week Two: The Nature of God

Day One: Chapter 5

Day Two: Chapter 6, Sections 1-2
Day Three: Chapter 6, Section 3
Day Four: Chapter 7, Main Points 1-5
Day Five: Chapter 7, Main Points 6-10

Week Three: The Excellencies of God, Part 1

Day One: Chapter 8
Day Two: Chapter 9
Day Three: Chapter 10
Day Four: Chapter 11
Day Five: Chapter 12

Week Four: The Excellencies of God, Part 2

Day One: Chapter 13, Main Points 1-3 Day Two: Chapter 13, Main Points 4-6

Day Three: Chapter 14

Day Four: Chapter 15, Main Points 1-5 Day Five: Chapter 15, Main Points 6-8

Week Five: The Holiness and Righteousness of God

Day One: Chapter 16

Day Two: Chapter 17, Section 1 Day Three: Chapter 17, Section 2

Day Four: Chapter 18 Day Five: Chapter 19

Week Six: The One True God

Day One: Chapter 20, Main Points 1-3 Day Two: Chapter 20, Main Points 4-6

Day Three: Chapter 21

Day Four: Chapter 22, Sections 1-2 Day Five: Chapter 22, Sections 3-4

Week Seven: The Faithfulness of God

Day One: Chapter 23

Day Two: Chapter 24, Section 1
Day Three: Chapter 24, Sections 2-3
Day Four: Chapter 25, Sections 1-2
Day Five: Chapter 25, Sections 3-4

Week Eight: The Love of God

Day One: Chapter 26 Day Two: Chapter 27 Day Three: Chapter 28 Day Four: Chapter 29 Day Five: Chapter 30

Week Nine: God the Creator

Day One: Chapter 31, Section 1 Day Two: Chapter 31, Section 2

Day Three: Chapter 32 Day Four: Chapter 33 Day Five: Chapter 34

Week Ten: God the Sovereign

Day One: Chapter 35 Day Two: Chapter 36 Day Three: Chapter 37

Day Four: Chapter 38, Section 1 Day Five: Chapter 38, Section 2

Week Eleven: God the Lawgiver and Judge

Day One: Chapter 39, Sections 1-2 Day Two: Chapter 39, Sections 3-4

Day Three: Chapter 40

Day Four: Chapter 41, Section 1 Day Five: Chapter 41, Section 2

Week Twelve: God the Savior, Part 1

Day One: Chapter 42, Section 1 Day Two: Chapter 42, Section 2

Day Three: Chapter 43

Day Four: Chapter 44, Section 1 Day Five: Chapter 44, Section 2

Week Thirteen: God the Savior, Part 2

Day One: Chapter 45, Sections 1-2 Day Two: Chapter 45, Sections 3-4

Day Three: Chapter 46 Day Four: Chapter 47 Day Five: Chapter 48



Chapter 1: The Knowledge of God

THE GREATEST OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

Where should a believer begin his or her study of Christianity? The answer is simple, though not always obvious to all: Christianity is first and foremost about the person and work of God. Therefore, we should begin our study with Him!

1.	According to Jeremiah 9:23-24, what is the most important and most essential knowledge that a person can possess? Explain your answer.			
	_			
	ter kn	ristics—who He really is. It sho	ould be obvious that knowled	manent, and unchanging charac- ge of God is the most important evote our lives to knowing God
2.		e knowledge of God begins v owledge of His will. What doe		not stop there. It also includes the us with regard to this truth?
	a.	So then do not be F of the Lord is.	, but U	what the W
		God's will and live according	to it. In the Scriptures, the wo unintelligent, but to someone	d desires. We are called to seek ord "fool" is a moral term. It does who does not recognize the im-

3.		cording to the words of Jesus in John 17:3, what is eternal life? What is the one great purpose the believer's new relationship with God?
		OTES: Eternal life does not just refer to a quantity of life (i.e. life without end), but to a qualof life: the great purpose of life is to know God in an intimate relationship.
	icy	or me. the great purpose of me is to know eoo in an intimate relationship.
31	ΕN	IEFITS OF KNOWING GOD
	we	e benefits of knowing God are so vast that they cannot be considered in detail in this work. ver, we will mention a few of the most basic ones that are directly stated in the Scriptures. In llowing are found four great benefits that are derived from a biblical knowledge of God.
	U۱	NDERSTANDING
	a.	Proverbs 9:10 – "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of W, and the knowledge of the Holy One is U"
		NOTES: A correct view of God is necessary in order to have a correct view of everything else. Only in the light of a true knowledge of God can we have a true understanding of reality; especially regarding who we are, our need, and the purpose of our existence.
2.	TR	oust or Faith
	a.	Psalm 9:10 – "Those who K Your name will put their T in You,
		for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."
		NOTES: In the Scriptures, the <i>name</i> of God is a reference to God Himself. The more we know about Him (His perfect character and unlimited power), the more we will be able to believe Him and trust Him with every aspect of our lives.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

3.	SP	PIRITUAL STRENGTH
	a.	Daniel 11:32 – "The people who know their God will display S and take A"
		NOTES: To live the Christian life takes a strength that is beyond our own. The more we know about God, the stronger we will be spiritually, and the more willing and able we will be to actively live for Him regardless of the obstacles. The Bible says that in a time of great trial, David "was greatly distressed," but he "strengthened himself in the LORD his God" (I Samuel 30:6).
4.	PE	RSEVERANCE
	a.	II Timothy 1:12 – "For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I K whom I have believed and I am C that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day."
		NOTES: The Apostle Paul wrote this right before he was to die as a martyr for Christ under the corrupt rule of the Roman Empire. He remained faithful to Christ and did not deny the faith. He stood bold, unashamed, and confident because he knew the character and power of the One in whom he had come to believe!
D	1A	NGERS OF NOT KNOWING GOD
	vas	te the benefits of knowing God, the devastating consequences of not knowing Him are also st that they cannot all be considered in detail in this work. However, we will mention six of the basic, each of which is directly stated in the Scriptures.
1.	RE	MAKING GOD IN OUR OWN IMAGE
	a.	Psalm 50:21 – "These things you have done and I kept silence; you T
		that I was just L you; I will R you and state the case in order
		before your eyes."
		NOTES: In the absence of a true knowledge of God, man will form his own opinions and remake God in his own image. It will always result in a deformed and degraded view of God.

It will always result in God's judgment!

2.	FA	ALSE WORSHIP
	a.	In John 4:22, what did Jesus tell the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well regarding herself, her people, and their religion?
		"You W what you do not K"
		NOTES: Idolatry occurs whenever we worship anything or anyone other than the living God. In the absence of the true knowledge of God, even those who identify themselves with Christianity are subject to this error. They make a false god in their own mind, and then they worship the god they have made!
3.	Ur	NBELIEF OR LACK OF TRUST
	a.	Romans 10:14 – "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they B in Him whom they have not H? And how will they hear without a preacher?"
		NOTES: Although this text applies directly to the preaching of the gospel, it has a wider application with regard to the knowledge of God—how can one believe in the God who he do not know? This applies not only to the sinner's faith leading to salvation, but also to the believer's faith or trust in God that is necessary to live the Christian life. As we have already learned from Psalm 9:10, only those who know God's name will put their trust in Him.
4.	ch	N INDIFFERENT OR APATHETIC VIEW OF SIN – In I Corinthians 15:34, the Apostle Paul rebuked the urch in Corinth because some professing believers among them had no real knowledge of God. is ignorance of God resulted in two dangerous and shameful consequences.
	a.	They were not SM as they should have been.
		NOTES: The command, "Become sober-minded," can also be translated, "Sober up" (NET) or "Wake up from your drunken stupor" (ESV). Because they did not know God, they were living like sleeping or drunken men with regard to the dangers of sin and the importance of living according to God's will.
	b.	They were S
		NOTES: The word "sin" comes from the Greek word <i>hamartáno</i> , which means, "to miss the mark." Because they missed the mark regarding the nature of God (He is righteous),

they also missed the mark regarding how they should live before Him (righteously).

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

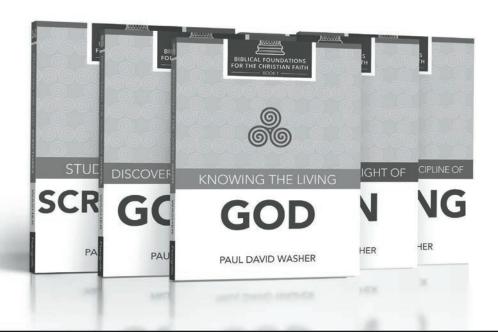
5.	Go		had no law	or had never given His law	apart from the law or will of to men. It is one of the most
	а.	Proverbs 29:18 – "Wh U_			, the people are e law."
		NOTES: In this context, the but to the revelation of God rance of God's nature and la from a Hebrew word para , Those who have no knowle pointed leaders apart from days there was no king in Is	I's person and aw, the peop which means dge of God God. We find	d will through the Scripture le are unrestrained. The wo s, "to let loose from restrai or His will run unrestrained d an example of this in the k	s. Where there is an igno- ord "unrestrained" comes int" or "to act as leader." I in sin and act as self-ap- pook of Judges: "In those
	b.				or its ignorance of God and the result of such ignorance.
		No F	_ (v. 1)	No K	_ (v. 1)
		S	_ (v.2)	D	_ (v.2)
		M	_ (v.2)	S	(v.2)
		A	(v.2)	V	_ (v.2)
		NOTES: Do you see any p their ignorance of God and and man's sinfulness does unrestrained and immoral	I the behavion that the state of the state o	or of our own society? God	d's law does not change,
6.		VINE JUDGMENT AND DESTRU God. What do the following			onsequence of an ignorance
	a.	Hosea 4:6			
		<u>-</u>			
		<u>:</u>			

NOTES: The lack of the knowledge of God is devastating. It leads to being rejected as an instrument of God and to the eventual destruction of individuals and societies. Our ignorance of God will even have a devastating effect upon the generations that follow us.
Romans 1:18

NOTES: The wrath of God refers to His righteous anger or indignation against sinful men. It is important to note that man is not a victim. The Bible teaches that fallen man is a hater of God (Romans 1:30) and hostile to His law (Romans 8:7). It is because of man's ungodliness and unrighteousness that he rejects, ignores, and even suppresses the truth about God's

nature and will.





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Knowing the Living God
Discerning the Plight of Man
Discovering the Glorious Gospel
Understanding the Discipline of Fasting
Studying the Holy Scriptures

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