

## THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD

(Hos. 4:6)

### Introduction:

1. God sadly declared that His people were being (and going to be further) destroyed because they did not know Him, they had rejected knowledge of Him.
2. Compare this to the good devotion that brother Tim gave recently on Matt. 25:14-30, esp. vv 24-30.
3. Many think they know God, but in truth they do not. Let us consider this morning some who claim to know God but clearly do not: those who believe all shall be saved; those who believe that what we do in worship or what we teach/believe does not matter; and finally those who do not believe that they must serve God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

### Discussion:

#### I. There are those who believe no one shall be condemned.

- A. The problem with this belief is that it contradicts clear biblical teaching.
  1. Consider the words of our Lord (Matt. 7:13, 14; Mk. 16:16; Matt. 25:46).
  2. Consider the clear teaching about the fate and danger of false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-16; 3:1-7, 17, 18 (cp. 3:3 and 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 3; latter half of Titus 1; et al).
- B. People who believe that all shall be saved and none condemned do not know God despite their claims to the contrary.
- C. To truly know God we must understand that indeed God is love (1 John 4:8) to those who love Him (and the Bible teaches that this entails obedience) but that He is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29) to those who hate Him (that is reject Him as God and do not submit to Him).

#### II. There are those who believe it does not matter how we worship, or what we believe or teach.

- A. Jesus made plain what the Bible teaches clearly from beginning to end, love of God equals submission/obedience to God (John 14:15; 15:14 = Gen. 4:7 = Ex. 20:5, 6 = Heb. 3:18, 19; et al).
- B. The Bible is filled with examples of this clear teaching, especially with regards to worship (Lev. 10:1-3; 1 Kings 12:30; Is. 1; Ezek. 8-10; et al).
- C. The importance of worshipping God as He commands and in no other way was declared by our Lord in John 4:24. God is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit (with their whole heart = out of love and thankfulness) and in truth (according to His will = love; John 14:15).

#### III. There are brethren who believe they do not need to serve the Lord.

- A. Jesus made plain that salvation was made available to all, but that the price for that salvation was equal to the price paid for that salvation (Heb. 10:5-7; Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40).
- B. Jesus made plain that as our Savior He must be our Lord (Luke 6:46-49; cp. Acts 2:36).
- C. Jesus made plain that His being our Savior and Lord meant a life of service to Him.
  1. Luke 9:23 = "If anyone desires to come (present tense = "keep coming after Me") after Me, let him deny (aorist tense = "let him have denied himself") himself, and take up (aorist tense = "let him have taken up his cross") his cross daily, and follow (present tense = "keep following Me") Me."
  2. Luke 14:26, 27 = If anyone comes (present tense) to Me and does not hate (present tense) his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be (present tense) My disciple. And whoever does not bear (present tense) his cross and come (present tense) after Me cannot be (present tense) My disciple."
  3. Luke 14:33 = "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake (present tense) all that he has cannot be (present tense) My disciple."

### Conclusion:

1. Brethren, consider the plain words of Paul with regards to those who will be saved and those who will; be lost in 2 Thess. 1:6-10.

- A. In verse 7 we see that those who live/serve as Paul (cp. 1 Cor. 11:1) will receive rest (cp. Matt. 11:28-30).
  - B. In verses 8-10, we see that on the day of judgment that is surely coming there are two groups of people who will be destroyed from the presence of God; those who do not know God, and those who do not obey His Gospel.
2. Truly, truly these all do not know God. Some do not know Him at all, some think they know Him but do not. If they did, they would humbly, thankfully obey.
  3. Invitation.

### **MORE ON “THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD”**

1. Titus 1:16 = refers to people who claim to know God but their actions deny God: they are abominable (*bdeluktos* = “detestable”, from a root meaning “to stink”; only use of this word in NT; but related to word found in Rom. 2:22 [abhor] and Rev. 21:8 [vile]), disobedient (Acts 5:32; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9; Heb. 3:18, 19), and disqualified (*adokimos* = “not standing the test, not approved”-Thayer) from every good work (cp. Matt. 7:15-20; 1 Cor. 13:1-3).
2. Rom. 1:18-32:
  - V18 = God’s wrath revealed against those who suppress the truth; that is, those who work against knowing God.
  - V21= They had known God but chose not to glorify Him, were not thankful towards Him, and chose instead not know Him (made their thoughts futile, useless).
  - V28 = They knew God but did not choose to *keep* knowing Him. This resulted in God giving them over to a “debased” mind. The word translated debase (reprobate in the KJV) is *adokimos*, cp. Titus 1:16.
  - V32 = They knew the righteous judgment of God but not only acted contrary, but approved (a negative form of *adokimos*) those who also act contrary.
3. Rom. 2 is an excellent example of this claiming to know God and yet not living like it.
4. Consider the full context of Hos. 4:6.
5. The OT book of Leviticus is the answer to the question, “how can a sinful people serve a holy God?” The answer is Leviticus: command after command and offering after offering.
6. To know God is to understand and live the requirements for a good relationship with Him (often referred to as righteous living, or simply righteousness). The two groups of people mentioned in 2 Thess. 1:8 are those who do not know God or His requirements for a right relationship with Him, and those who do know Him and His requirements but do not live them.