The Things That Matter

Christian Life Assembly Fall 2015

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Objectives

 Seek to hear from God, in His own words, how great He is.

• Seek to know doctrine. (2nd Tim 4:3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.)

 When we are done, it is my prayer that God will be further revealed (glorified) and exalted.

 God knows all that has been, and could have been.

 God knows all that could be, and would be.

God knows all that will be.

 God knows the cures for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease.

 God knows how to stretch, and multiply the financial resources we have.

 God knows where you should live, work, and worship.

- Psalm 145:7 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; <u>his understanding is beyond measure</u>.
- 1st John 3:20 For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, <u>and he knows</u> <u>everything</u>.
- Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; <u>his understanding is</u> <u>unsearchable.</u>

Jer 1:5 "<u>Before I formed you in the womb I</u>
 <u>knew you</u>, and before you were born I
 consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to
 the nations."

 Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

• Matt 10:30 <u>But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.</u>

 Jer 29:11 For <u>I know the plans I have for you</u>, <u>declares the Lord</u>, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

 Isaiah 42:9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

 1st Chron 28:9 "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, <u>for the Lord</u> <u>searches all hearts and understands every plan</u> <u>and thought.</u> If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever."

 Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 139:1 O LORD, you have examined my heart and *know* everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! 7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

 God, in His omniscience knows everything, knows it perfectly, exhaustively, and absolutely.

Nothing is ever hidden from Him.

 While we are awed by His attributes, we should resist studying His attributes without studying Him.

 Psalm 139:4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.

 He knows what we will say, our motive behind it, how it will be received, and the lasting effect of our words before we speak them.

God never learns anything – even when we pray
we are not informing God, He is informing us and
pouring His grace on us as we pour out our hearts
to Him.

- God <u>understands</u> all things this is the basis for seeking His help when we are at a loss for knowledge and understanding.
- James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. NIV

Does God understand nuclear physics?
 Calculus? How computers work?

 Psalm 139:11 If I say, "Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 <u>even</u> <u>the darkness is not dark to thee, the night is</u> <u>bright as the day</u>; for darkness is as light with thee".

 God's knowledge of everything pre-dates even His own creation of light in Genesis 1.

 He does not need 'light', physical or of any sort, to see or understand.

 He needs no one to inform Him in order for Him to know, and what He knows is known independent of study or experience.

 Perhaps one of the most amazing points to make about God's omniscience is that <u>the one</u> <u>who knows us best, loves us the most.</u>

 There may be plenty of things you hold against yourself, but that is not God's posture towards you, and He knows it all.

 You see when God examines our works and continues to love us, an important message goes out to the world.

 The Message? The message that only God could overcome our sinfulness and make those who ought to die, live!

 When God loves us in spite of us, that is not about us, but it about Him and His mercy!

 God is the one who knows the answer to <u>'Where did God come from</u>?'.

 God also knows the answer to, "<u>Could God</u> <u>make a rock so large that He could not move</u> <u>it?".</u>

 God knows all of the possibilities, of all possible decisions, that men may make.

 It is good that God knows everything, because we can rest assured that He knows we love Him.

 That is important to me, because my life does always speak of love for God, but then I remember, He knows I love Him.

 When my attitudes and actions are not sufficient proof that I love Him, His omniscience is!

God's Knowledge

 God's natural knowledge is what he knows about facts, truth, and propositions.

 God's free knowledge is what He knows about what will be.

 God's middle Knowledge has to do with all that could be, and would be under given circumstances.

Middle Knowledge

 Calvinism and Arminianism hold that the salvation of any particular person is determined, respectively, entirely by God's direct action or entirely by human choice. In rough terms, this is seen as a debate over the interplay between God's sovereignty and human free will. Molinism, in essence, upholds both real free will and God's total sovereignty, through the use of middle knowledge. By this, it is claimed that God knows all things a free creature would do in all possible circumstances, and so infallibly enacts His will through those circumstances, rather than directly overriding that creature's freedom.

Questions