

“WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE LACK THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD”

HOSEA 4:1-6

INTRO: Historically speaking **MANY OF GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE LACKED THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD!** This is has been seen in almost every age in both the Old and the New Testaments. However, with the **CURRENT CONTEMPORARY TREND** it appears that **more and more of God's people lack a real knowledge of Who God Is, What God Expects and How God Operates.** This condition results in Christianity based upon personal opinion rather than biblical truth which brings serious ramifications for the family, the church and the culture. So, let's consider **WHAT happens WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE LACK THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.**

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OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Israel lacked the knowledge of God that led them away from the Truth of God. This ultimately brought God's rejection of them resulting in national judgment.
- 2) Many Christians lack the knowledge of God that will lead them away from the Truth of God and into **DOCTRINAL** and **SPIRITUAL** error.

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I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A CHRISTIAN TO LACK THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD?

- A. It does not mean the lack of **KNOWING GOD** in salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
- B. It does mean **THE LACK OF KNOWING THE PERSON, THE PLAN AND THE PURPOSE OF GOD** that leads to living the Christian life by personal opinion and philosophy.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. WHAT CAUSES THE CHRISTIAN TO LACK THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD?

- A. Limited Study of God's Word
- B. Limited Personalization of God's Word
 1. Through Obedience
 2. Through Application
 3. Through Living
- C. Limited Access to Biblical Preaching
 1. Listening to **NO** Preaching
 2. Listening to **LITTLE** Preaching
 3. Listening to **Erroneous** Preaching
 4. Listening to **Shallow** Preaching
- D. Limited Fellowship with Godly Christians
- E. Limited Involvement in the Local Church
- F. Limited Involvement in the Right Church
- G. Limited Desire to get to Know God More

ILLUSTRATION:

III. WHAT IS THE DANGER OF THE CHRISTIAN NOT HAVING A GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD?

- A. It Results in Inefficient Witness
- B. It Results in Improper Living
- C. It Results in Ineffective Christian Service
- D. It Results in an Inoperative Church

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. WHY SHOULD THE CHRISTIAN HAVE A GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD?

- A. It is Implied in Scripture – Jeremiah 9:23,24
- B. It is Illustrated by The Apostle Paul – Philippians 3:10,17
- C. It is Commanded by the Word of God – 2 Peter 3:18

ILLUSTRATION:

V. WHAT CAUSES A CHRISTIAN TO GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD?

REVERSING THE CAUSES OF LACKING THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- A. By the Serious Study of the Word of God
- B. By the Personalization of the Word of God

- C. By the Advantage of Biblical Preaching
- D. By the Fellowship of Godly Christians
- E. By the Involvement with the Local Church
- F. By the Involvement with the Right Church
- G. By the Desire to get to Know God More

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

- 1) What is YOUR knowledge of God?
- 2) What has been your approach to knowing God?
- 3) What will you do to grow in your knowledge of God?