



Lomax Online Bulletin

May 3rd, 2020

Elders: Danny Spears, John Eglinton, Rick Morrow, Jeff Dye, Mike Parker

Ministers: Donnie Debord, Robert Pierce, Jeff Spears, Malcolm George

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Announcements:

*Online service 10AM Sundays, 7PM Wednesdays & 10AM Primetimers
Class on Facebook*

Contributions can be mailed to Lomax Church of Christ, PO Box 33 or made online (Lomaxchurch.com/give).

Congrats to the Henderson family as Crews & Summer were married April 20th.

Wonderful news! Cole Farr was baptized last Tuesday, April 21st.

Meditations from Malcolm:

"A Successful Life"

"To laugh often & much; to win the respect of intelligent people & the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics & endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have had success."

This has such wonderful sentiments great qualities for living, however we would be amiss without adding Ecclesiastes 12:14 ¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

We hope & pray that we can all soon be back together for worship service.

Prayer Requests:

Spencer Clark, son of Adam & Maranda Clark, is Lewis County sixth grader who has bone cancer and will have thirty weeks of chemo treatments and two surgeries

Tina Spears Gaither, daughter of Janie Spears, requests prayers as she is not doing well.

Debbie Bunch had skin cancer surgery. She will be returning in May for another surgery.

Sarah Rogers had a 2nd surgery for her back on April 10 due to an infection. She is home and doing well now.

Janice Johnston is home recovering after a stay overnight in Maury Regional last week.

Page Roberson had ACL reconstruction knee surgery Monday, April 20.

Michael Gray hopes to leave the nursing home soon.

Carole Hankins has cancer. She has had surgery and is now undergoing treatment.

Gene Durham had a stay in hospital and now is in a local nursing home

Janice Seaton had foot surgery and is doing good at home with one more month in a cast.

Sympathy to the Bunch family in the passing of Jody Bunch. Her funeral was Tuesday, April 28.

Why Do We Need to Know Who God Is? By Donnie Debord

As we think about the names of God and the way God described himself in the Scriptures, we also need to consider why it is important that we know who God is. It seems that we are often tempted to create God in our own image. We all have a “sense of the divine” (*sensus divinitatis*). God has placed eternity in our hearts (Ecc. 3:11). One of the most famous statements of the last 1600 years focused on our need for God.

Great art Thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is Thy power, and Thy wisdom infinite. And Thee would man praise; man, but a particle of Thy creation; man, that bears about him his mortality, the witness of his sin, the witness that Thou resistest the proud: yet would man praise Thee; he, but a particle of Thy creation. Thou awakest us to delight in Thy praise; for Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless, until it repose in Thee. Grant me, Lord, to know and understand which is first, to call on Thee or to praise Thee? and, again, to know Thee or to call on Thee? for who can call on Thee, not knowing Thee?^[1]

Augustine recognized mankind’s purpose from God, need for God, and the necessity of a proper knowledge of God to call on him.

The necessity of a proper knowledge of God is taught in Scripture. Hebrews 11:6 teaches us “whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” In order to come to God, we must have an appropriate knowledge of God. We can know some things about God through his creation (natural revelation). We can learn even more about God from his Son (personal revelation), but we could know nothing specific about God or his Son without his Word (special revelation).

Why Is It Important to Know God?

Our knowledge of God is essential to our lives. Think of your favorite person—your best friend. How unfortunate would it be if you had never known that person? How would your life be different? How much value has that special person added to your life? Now, think of how much different your life would be without a knowledge of the true God. You may create a god for yourself, but that could only be a cheap imitation which would never really give you anything since you gave it everything. You could live your life pretending there is no God, but then what greater purpose or meaning would your life and all life have? Wouldn't it be so much better to know the true God and find value in the true God?

Knowledge of God is necessary for our own value. Take a look out your window and you will probably see a lot of different things and you may see some people. Intuitively, we know there is a difference between the things and the people. We know the things are things and the people are people. Why? "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27). God created everything, and therefore everything has some value. God created everyone, and therefore everyone has more value than every thing. Your life is valuable because you are made in God's image. If you could load every diamond on earth into one bank, it would not be made in the image of God. It would not be as valuable as you are. Every thing you see will be burned at the end of time (1 Pet. 3:7). Everyone who has ever lived will stand before God (Rev. 20:12). The saved will live with God forever (Rev. 21:5-8). Because there is a God, you have value. Knowledge of God leads you to value yourself and others.

Knowledge of God is necessary for our salvation. We all struggle, almost intuitively, with guilt. To not struggle with guilt is an element of psychological disorders. So, what are we to do with this guilt and how can we live with

ourselves knowing what we have done? Knowing that there is a God *should increase* the distress of our guilt. God is holy. His holiness is perfect. He is completely free from sin. He “alone dwells in unapproachable light” (1 Tim. 6:16). When we know there is a perfect God, our imperfections are magnified. However, that perfect God has sent his perfect Son to be the perfect sacrifice and the perfect representative (Jn. 3:16). A true knowledge of God, therefore, gives us peace. Romans 5:1 makes this connection between our knowledge of God and our salvation—“since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1). In Romans 8:1 Paul said, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1).

Knowledge of God is necessary for our emotions. In Ephesians 2:14 Paul said, “he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.” This hostility affected the individual’s physical, spiritual, social, and emotional lives. Today, Jesus and Jesus alone can give us this peace. This is the peace that “surpasses understanding” (Phi. 4:7). This peace comes through our knowledge of God and our trust in him. In John 16:33 Jesus said, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.” Our peace is from Christ and available only as we know him through the Scriptures.

When We Know Who God Is

1. Knowledge of God leads us to holiness. Both Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8 record “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD.” His perfect holiness should compel us to pursue holiness.
2. Knowledge of God leads us to comfort. In our ever changing and increasingly troubling world, we should value God as the perfect “anchor of our souls.” If we do not know God, we will not have that anchor.

3. Knowledge of God gives our lives both value and purpose. The depressed and attention seeking tendencies of our day demonstrate our need for God. With a proper view and knowledge of our most high God, we can understand the value of human life in general and of our lives in particular.