

Knowing God

Some people dream about meeting a famous person, perhaps a famous celebrity or sports star. They will spend time imagining what it would be like to fulfill their dream. They may even go to great lengths to catch a glimpse of their hero or heroine and collect pictures and other objects which are associated with them.

Many people will say how they appreciate attractive scenery and many will be in awe of the things that God has made. They will marvel at the wonders of creation and look forward to the enjoyment of sunny weather and warm days. What could be more beautiful than a magnificent sunset or a starlit sky? The strange thing is, that though they admire and appreciate the things God has made, they themselves don't want to know Him!

A Spoilt Relationship

We read in the Bible that Adam and Eve were in Paradise where they enjoyed all the beauty of God's creation and the blessings



of His abundant provision. Gold told them they could eat anything except the fruit of just one of the trees. Although they had plenty of food they disobeyed God and tasted this fruit. Because of this when God walked in the garden they hid from Him and they did not want to be near Him. They were afraid of God because they were aware that they had been disobedient to Him. They had spoilt their relationship with God.

How easy it can be to spoil a relationship on the human level. It may be that right now there is someone you are afraid to meet because you know you have upset them and you feel bad about it. However, what about our relationship with God? Do we ever consider how wonderful it would be to be able to be reconciled to and know the One who has made everything, and has given us the wonderful creation that we enjoy?

Two thousand years ago, the Son of God came into this world and lived His wonderful life among men. Though He made everything and upholds all things, He came to live as man among men. He worked as a carpenter in a humble family. When He began His ministry, He gladly met the needs of the poor and needy. Anyone could approach Him, and He desired the highest good of all those He met. He was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Yet He was crucified. Men rejected Him and put Him to death as though He was an evildoer. It seems so strange that such a kind, gracious, loving Person could be so hated.

People Have Not Changed

However, even today things have not changed. So often when a mention is made of Christ there is a hostile reaction. If people are told about Him and His wonderful life, death and resurrection, so often they prefer not to listen. They prefer

to change the subject or walk away. They do not want to hear about the One who is good and desires their good! Surely, all this tells there is something wrong with human nature.

What about our relationship with God?

When we are kind to people we expect kindness in return. Even the pets we own respond to our love. Why then, should we be so unresponsive to the love of God? It surely shows us the state of our hearts, that we are so determined to go our own way and reject God and His love. This is what we all do naturally. As the Scripture says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). The Bible says that, like Adam and Eve, it is because we are sinners that we fear coming to a holy God (John 3:19).

Knowing Christ

There are those, however, who have recognised what a terrible thing it is to rebel against God, and to reject His grace and

mercy. Through the power of His Holy Spirit they have humbled themselves, confessed their sin, and have come into a right relationship with Him through His death for them as their sin-bearer. Like the disciples of old, they have come to appreciate how wonderful the Lord Jesus Christ is. On one occasion,

many of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ left

Him, and He challenged the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" Then Peter answered Him, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also, we have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God**" (John 6:67-69). **They could not leave Him.**

This has been true of many millions of others throughout the centuries. They have been prepared to suffer great loss rather than to deny their Lord. Like all true Christians they have a great desire to be with God forever in Heaven because they have come to know the true and living God. They have had their eyes opened to see just

how wonderful He is. For God has commanded His light to shine "in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:6). It is so wonderful to know the Lord Jesus personally, here on earth, and look forward to the time when we shall be with Him in Heaven.

They see just how wonderful He is

There are many who consider themselves to be

Christians, but they do not truly know the Lord, and Heaven is very distant from them. True believers have everlasting life; the life of Heaven has begun on earth for them. They have a foretaste, because "Heaven" is experiencing the life of God in the soul. It is fellowship with the person of God Himself.