

MADE TO KNOW GOD

Genesis 1-2:7

Introduction: When it comes to the things of God, you need to know what you believe. You need to know if Christianity is a feeling, a belief or an activity. You need to know what "truth" is in the Christian life. You need to know about "faith" which brings a person into the Christian life. You need to know how to defend your beliefs. Therefore, if one is to be "religious" he/she must know God and enter into fellowship with Him.

- God must be revealed and a person must be capable of knowing God.
- People have no capacity to know God except as God reveals Himself, nor could God reveal Himself to a "being" who had no capacity to know Him in the first place.
- God always takes the initiative and acts creatively therefore people must have the capacity to respond to the acts of God in His revealing of Himself.
- There must be something more in people than there is in "things" or animals or else people could not be "religious."

I. PEOPLE ARE MORE THAN JUST PHYSICAL BEINGS/THINGS

1. God made man differently than He did anything else.
2. God made man/people in His image. Just what is God's image? It's not physical or visible.
3. Just what unseen, non-material things did God give to man/people that no other created thing had?

II. PEOPLE HAVE A SPIRITUAL PART TO THEM

1. People have the capacity of becoming more than any other created thing God made.
 - They have intelligence - they can reason, reflect, investigate, conclude, guide their own lives.
 - They can choose - dream, plan, direct their own lives, adjust to heredity and environmental influences.
 - Being able to "choose" makes a person responsible.
 - When God is involved in a person's life, that person is more powerful than all the forces of nature, evil or sin.
 - They can choose to love, to care.
 - The animal instinct in some animals sees some sacrifice for its young.
 - In human life, people rise to deliberate sacrifice their lives for others.
 - Jesus' life and death is the best example of choosing to sacrifice one's life for others.
 - They have a moral nature.
 - People can sense right and wrong, the feeling to do the right thing.
 - This comes ONLY from God, it is not something a person asks for, it's just there.

III. THERE ARE THINGS NECESSARY TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. The gospel must be heard and accepted by each person, him/herself.
2. The gospel is addressed to people's ability/capacity to think and choose.

3. The gospel kind of "love" is from a rational choice to love, it is not from some kind of instinct.
4. Only an intelligent, free being/person with the power/ability to know and choose can respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

IV. A THIRST FOR GOD IS INSIDE EVERY PERSON

1. When God made man/people, He instilled within each one, a place for Himself, therefore if God is not within a person, there is a "thirst," a desire to fill that emptiness.
2. Jesus Christ is the only way to satisfy/fill that thirst which is innate within every human being.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every human being has the capacity/ability to know God.
2. God instilled within every human being a thirst, a desire to know God.
3. People try to satisfy that thirst, that desire in their own ways but there is only one way that thirst can be satisfied and it is through Jesus Christ, God's only way.
4. People can know about religion, about Christianity, about God, about Jesus Christ, but nobody can know the actual truths until they know God personally and have His presence living within their lives which is what the gospel is all about.
5. Do you just know about God, about Christianity, about Jesus Christ, or do you know God personally, Jesus, personally and Christianity first-hand because you are a part of God's family?