

What Does God Care About Most?

Part 6 - The Word

Review:

The answer is simple... and that is relationships. He cares most about your relationship with Him and your relationship with others.

Recap: part 1: [Repent \(turn to God\)](#)
 part 2: [Make every effort to follow God](#)
 Part 3: [Bearing Fruit](#)
 Part 4: [Knowing Christ](#)
 Part 5: [The Word](#)

To know God, is to love God

**We can know all that the Bible has to say yet it matters little
if we fail to know the One that spoke it.**

The more we can trust the Bible, the more we can trust the One who wrote it.

Before we begin our study I'd like to talk a little bit about gaining momentum in your walk with Christ.

It's like learning to ride a bike.

- It's difficult to start
- You need to get the bike moving before it becomes easier to pedal
- It's easier to ride when it's moving

When a bike is not moving:

- It can't be steered
- It needs to be supported

1 Peter 2: 2 Like newborn infants, **desire the pure milk of the word**, so that you may grow up into your salvation, 3 if you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, a living stone—rejected by people but chosen and honored by God— 5 you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1: 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied about the grace that would come to you, searched and carefully investigated. 11 They inquired into what time or what circumstances the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when he testified in advance to the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 **It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you.** These things have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

You owe it to God's prophets to read what they recorded.

God has preserved His Word, His Truth for you, so that you might live!

Reading the Word daily is like laying another cinder block in your foundation, one day at a time. The more you read, the stronger and more stable your foundation will be.

Matthew 7: 24 “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.”

The Word is our foundation and the more we know it the more solid we can stand. This is why I’m spending extra time to present and demonstrate our need to believe and embrace the Word as truth. The more you know Truth the easier you’ll be able to spot counterfeits.

Now I want to talk about the cohesiveness of the Bible, both parts, Part 1 and Part 2.

<<Share Testimony about reading the Bible here>>

- **The New Testament truth is dependant upon Old Testament truth**
- **Old Testament truth is validated by the New Testament truth**
- **There is much more yet to happen that is prophesied in the Old Testament**

Here are some examples:

The New Testament truth is dependant upon Old Testament truth

Hebrews relies on Genesis and the Psalms regarding Melchizedek

Hebrews 5: 6 also says in another place, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek

Hebrews 6: 20 Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner, because he has become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (**Psalm 110:4**)

Psalm 110: 4 The Lord has sworn an oath and will not take it back: “You are a priest forever according to the pattern of Melchizedek.”

The sign of Jesus is Jonah’s time in a fish

Matthew 12: 38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees told Jesus, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

39 But he replied to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves a sign. Yet no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah, 40 because just as Jonah was in the stomach of the sea creature for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. 41 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment and condemn the people living today, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah. But look—something greater than Jonah is here! 42 The queen of the

south will stand up and condemn the people living today, because she came from so far away to hear the wisdom of Solomon. But look! Something greater than Solomon is here!"

Paul constantly talks about Adam. Was he real? The concept of sin came from the garden. Did it happen?

Romans 5: 12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. 13 In fact, sin was in the world before the law, but sin is not charged to a person's account when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam's transgression. He is a type of the Coming One.

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if by the one man's trespass the many died, how much more have the grace of God and the gift which comes through the grace of the one man Jesus Christ overflowed to the many.

Jesus affirmed Noah as did Peter

Matthew 24: 36 "Now concerning that day and hour no one knows—neither the angels of heaven nor the Son—except the Father alone. 37 As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. 38 For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. 39 They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be.

2 Peter 2: 4 For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment; 5 and if he didn't spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, when he brought the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and if he reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is coming to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 especially those who follow the polluting desires of the flesh and despise authority.

Was Noah real? Was it a global flood? Or Did Jesus not know what He was talking about?

Jesus affirms "Male and female" created at the beginning

Matthew 19: 4 "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'"

"a very conservative count discloses unquestionably at least 295 separate references to the Old Testament. These occupy some 352 verses of the New Testament or more than 4.4 percent. Therefore one verse in 22.5 of the New Testament is a quotation." *Essay by Roger Nicole is reproduced from Revelation and the Bible*

<< Refer to Creation Video and Homosexuality Video (with 2 compelling testimonies) >>

Old Testament truth is validated by the New Testament truth

Around 200 to 400 prophecies about the coming Messiah, Jesus and His death and resurrection

Chart of Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus

If we're going to accept the message and events of Jesus then it's necessary to accept the Old Testament as well.

And then there's Job...Some professing Christians doubt Job's story.

Ezekiel 14: 14 Even if these three men—Noah, Daniel, and Job—were in it, they would rescue only themselves by their righteousness.” This is the declaration of the Lord God.

James 5: 10 Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name as an example of suffering and patience. 11 See, we count as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job's endurance and have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about—the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Old Testament truth that matters:

- Creation of the heavens and the earth
- Creation of Male and Female
- The origin of sin and why we are sinners
- Human Sexuality, What's considered immoral?
- The Flood that changed the world and why it happened
- The Tower of Babel which split our languages
- The start of the Jewish nation
- Sovereignty of God (He determines the steps of kings!)
 - **Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.
- A greater appreciation of Scripture
- God's character
- Countless prophecies are mentioned and fulfilled

There is much more yet to happen that is prophesied in the Old Testament

- **New Creation, New Heavens, New Earth**
- **Second Coming**
- **Israel's current existence and future events in Israel**

Do we have an arrogance about us that says “Those people weren't that intelligent and they wouldn't have believed that stuff had they been as intelligent as we are”

I'm calling you to rise above the mediocrity (lukewarm) that we're seeing in many churches today.

The best apologetic is knowing the Bible and having faith in what it says.

1 Corinthians 1: 4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge.

Ephesians 1: 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

Philippians 1: 9 And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ,

Colossians 1: 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

2 Peter 1: 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 3: 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Why the Church, our American Church, is a mess and so segregated...

We're ignorant about the Truth and have been spoon-fed myopic and short-sighted doctrines that take a greater precedent than love itself.

The effort you put into knowing God, giving your time and attention to the Lord, is the best way to love Him.

Just like our earthly relationships, they take time and effort to develop. The most important thing is to be consistent, building momentum and continue.

Keep reading, praying and maintaining your godly relationships.

God wants us to grow up.

Hebrews 6: Therefore, *let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity*, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God, 2 teaching about ritual washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And we will do this if God permits.

Discuss developing the habit of reading daily.

Preparing yourself for the Word.

-Pray before you open your Bible.

Ask the Lord to open your heart.

-Don't be in a rush, take the time to read in a relaxed state.

Your heart needs to be involved with your reading.

Share about being distracted

Ask yourself questions?

What am I learning from this?

What is the practical application of this?