

November 2019

Dear Brethren:

I want to talk about one topic which many people have not understood. We know that the Kingdom of God will be assured by Jesus Christ, but do we know the Jesus Christ who will come with that Kingdom? We know the Sabbaths of the Lord, but do we know the Lord of that Sabbath? Do you personally know Jesus Christ, or are you hearing Him from others? There was a time when Jesus asked His disciples:

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:13–14).

After that He wanted to know if His disciples knew Him:

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (vv. 15–16).

We come to recognize that for one to know the Lord Jesus Christ it must be revealed by God through His Holy Spirit. Have you asked God to reveal His Son to you? Do you have the desire to know Jesus or do you just follow whom you do not know? If you have Jesus, you have life. If you have the Son, you have the Father also.

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5:12).

If you deny the Son, you deny the Father also:

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also (1 John 2:23).

Christ once said that it is life to know Him and His Father. Many have known Sabbaths, baptism, the Passover, but they have not known Jesus Christ.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (John 17:1–3).

Many, especially those who claim to be church of God members, have not truly accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Some have accepted Sabbaths, baptism, the Passover and other teachings, but to accept Christ, to know why He died and what caused His death, many do not know. The person you know personally is the one you can describe well. Like you can say: my personal friend. It is the one you know well and can describe very well. If Christ is your personal Savior, you know Him well. Knowing Christ needs a revelation from God.

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy [Spirit] (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Moses wanted to know God. He asked God to show him His glory:

And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy (Exodus 33:17–19).

God says He knew Moses personally. Do you know God personally? Do you know Him the way He knows you? This needs to be a one-on-one relationship. The Apostle Paul said that old things stopped being dear to him:

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ (Philippians 3:7–8).

He wanted to be found in the Lord:

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death (vv. 9–10).

He wanted to forget all because of Christ:

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you (vv. 12–15).

Have you forgotten all things because of knowing Christ?

Christ did not come to show us the way, He is the Way:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

He did not come to find the door, He is the door (John 10:7); He did not come to give bread, He is the Bread of Life.

This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him (John 6:50–56).

If you know Christ, you have all of these. Ask yourself, do I know Christ personally or do I follow the one I hear people talk about? When Sceva's sons went to drive out demons from someone, they told them that they knew Paul and Christ, but the demons did not know them (Acts 19:13–16). Those men were claiming to follow Christ—whom they heard Paul talking about—but they personally did not know Christ.

Job knew a lot about God before, but later he came to see that God face to face:

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee
(Job 42:5).

The way you know your personal friend is the way you should know Christ, too. The way a woman knows her husband is the way she should know Christ. The way a man knows his wife is the same way he should know Christ.

We read that some disciples were going to Emmaus. Jesus was with them, but they did not know Him until He did something to open their minds. You might be in the church years and years and yet you may still not know Christ.

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him (Luke 24:13–20).

These men were walking with Jesus but they did not know Him until He did something to open their eyes. Many have been in the church for a long time, yet they do not know Christ. That is why you see many move from one group to another; they accept any kind of doctrine that comes along their way.

Knowing Christ is also to stick to what He taught, not what we think is the Truth. Many believe what they *think* is the Truth of Christ, but they do not know Him—they cannot

know His Truth. If you know Christ, He will reveal to you His Truth. He revealed that Truth to His Church some years ago, and what the church should have done is to keep what was given.

Those who do not know Jesus will follow destructive doctrines, as the Apostle Peter said:

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not (2 Peter 2:2–3).

Knowing Jesus will make you stand tall and defend His Word. If you know Christ, you will walk as He walked. We must walk in the light:

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked (1 John 2:4–6).

The one you know is the one you have fellowship with:

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:6–7).

That I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father (1 John 2:13).

Even now, if you ask some people if they know Christ, whom they claim to follow, they have trouble finding words to describe Him. Knowing the Sabbath, the Ten Commandments, the coming Kingdom, the Holy Days of the Lord, will not help you if you do not truly know God and Christ. You must know God and Christ personally.

We need to go back and find God and His Son Jesus Christ, we need to accept Christ as our personal Savior and come to know God as our Father. The Son knows what the Father

wants. The Son did what the Father directed Him to do. If we know Christ personally, it will give us more courage to serve the One we know well.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is (1 John 3:1–2).

Christ laid down His life so that we might have life; He agreed to be whipped, scourged, mocked and killed in our stead.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:7–10).

We must know that all this He did for us. He is coming again to liberate all the world, to bring peace, happiness and good life. Even the animals will experience peace on earth.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity (Ephesians 2:14–16).

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall

stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious (Isaiah 11:6–10).

Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortion is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hastening righteousness (Isaiah 16:4–5).

All people long for peace and good life. We are the ones who must know Him—the One who will bring all this when the time comes.

He is blessed who knows the One who knows him.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaya Owak', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Isaya Owak