

HE KNOWS ME, Part 2

Lord's Day two weeks ago, I spoke with those who were here about God's amazing knowledge of us. I began by raising the question, "*What does God know about you?*"

Naturally, all of us undoubtedly believe, and rightfully so, that "*He knows everything about me.*" That is true, of course, and that is what 1 John 3:20 says, isn't it? We read the words of the Psalmist in **Psalm 139, verse 1**: "*O LORD, you have searched me and known me!*"

God knows us, and as I said last week, when we begin to realize and appreciate **NOT** just the general idea that He knows everything about us, but **WHAT** He knows about us specifically, we are going to have a far greater appreciation for God, and that will change the way we live!

For example, last week we spent some time looking at the fact *that God knew us before we were even born*. We learned that God created us as spirit beings before we were born. That is, at some point, either prior to, or during the time our bodies began to develop within our mother's womb, God brought our spirit into being.

Hebrews 12:9 tells us that God is a *Father of spirits*. Numbers 16:22 says that He is the "*God of the spirits of all flesh.*" Zechariah 12:1 says that God "*formed the spirit of man within him.*" And thus, in **Psalm 139**, the Psalmist tells us that God "...*formed my inward parts,*" and "*knitted me together in my mother's womb.*"

God knows me. He knew me before He formed me in my mother's womb. He knew me even before my mother knew me, before she had the slightest hint that I was growing in her womb. In light of that I want people to give some serious thought to this question: *Since God is the Father of spirits and you are one of those spirits that He created, and since He has known you from even before your body and spirit began to be knit together in the womb, is it even remotely possible—do you think—that He doesn't have your absolute best interest at heart?*

Of course we know the answer to that question, don't we? The words of **Jeremiah 29:11** spell it out unmistakably clear. I love the way the Message version renders that verse for us. God says: "*I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out--plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.*"

Absolutely, God know us! He knows everything about us and in spite of that, as I said two weeks ago, He still loves us! He still wants to forgive us. He still longs for us to have that life that He has; that eternal life.

Well, there is much more that the scriptures reveal that God knows about us. He knew us before we were born, and think about this, **He knows our names**. One of the songs you might hear on Christian radio today is called, *He Knows My Name*.

*I have a Maker ... He formed my heart ... Before even time began ... My life was in his hands
I have a Father ... He calls me His own ... He'll never leave me ... No matter where I go
He knows my name ... He knows my every thought ... He sees each tear that falls ... And He
hears me when I call.*

--Tommy Walker

He knows my name! Maybe you are thinking, "Duh! I knew that already." I'm sure that's true, and maybe this is something so obvious that we don't need to call attention to it, but I want to do that this morning because I think there is more to it than maybe meets the eye.

Do you remember the call of Moses, at the burning bush? Do you recall that story, found there in the 3rd chapter of Exodus? Moses is getting up there in years, isn't he? He's around 80 years of age. He's probably thinking about retirement. Interesting, he is still working; tending sheep for his father-in-law, a Midianite named Reuel, or Jethro. Reuel is a prince of Midian; he's well-off; has seven daughters, and one of them, a woman named Zipporah was given to Moses to be his wife and she gave him two sons.

But one day, Moses is out there, all alone, in a wilderness type of area, and he sees something that commands his attention. He sees something burning. Anything like a wind-blown prairie fire would be a great concern to someone like a shepherd, and so he watches until he begins to sense something unusual is going on. The fire is not moving, and in fact the bush itself is not even being burned up. So Moses decides to investigate, to see just exactly what is happening, and as he approaches the burning bush, God calls to him, and says, "Moses! Moses!"

We have read that story and heard that story many times, and maybe this doesn't get our attention the way it should. What do you think it means that God called Moses by name? Have you ever thought about that? God didn't just say, "Stop!" He didn't just say, "If you come any further I will burn you to a crisp!" He didn't just say, "Hey! Hey you!" Instead, He called him by name.

Ever been somewhere, where you didn't know anyone or know anyone who knew you, and then suddenly someone called out your name. I supposed that has happened to me more than once, but one time I remember very well. Letha and I were in Branson with two other couples that we became friends with when we were all members of the Clark Air Base congregation in the Philippine Islands. That church was like a very tight family, much like Hartford, and anyway every two or three years, the three couples try to get together somewhere for a few days of renewing friendship and enjoying each other's love. Well, that year, we were in Branson, and we were at breakfast at the Farm House Restaurant in downtown Branson, and I will admit, we were having too much fun at the waitresses expense, but she was really having a bad-hair day. All of a sudden she pulled out a pistol, well, it was a cap pistol and proceeded to shoot me in the forehead, then she slapped a bullet-hole decal on my forehead, and while my friends were laughing their heads off, she proceeded to shoot the other two men. Then all of a sudden, another waitress came out and said, "We know who you are, Don Huddleston!"

Now that really caught my attention! She called me by name but I didn't have any idea who she was. Well, eventually I found out. She had been at worship the previous day where my sister attends and I had been invited to speak that morning, so she knew who I was.

But when someone knows your name, that means something, doesn't it? It especially means something if someone you don't know knows your name. What does it say then, that God knows your name?

That's what the Bible says, isn't it? He knows your name. You know, there is a passage in **Psalm 147** that says, "*He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.*"

He does what? He has given names to all of the stars? Think about that! How many stars are there? I am told that in the universe, and in just that portion that is observable, there are about 100 billion galaxies. Planet earth is part of the Milky Way galaxy, which is just one of those 100 billion galaxies. Scientists estimate that there are about 300 billion stars in just our galaxy alone. There are a number of galaxies that are smaller than ours, but there are also some that are at least twenty times bigger. So no one really has any idea of how many stars there are, but the Holy Spirit inspired the Psalmist to say, God has given names to all of them.

Man hasn't given names to every star; they may have given them a number, at least the ones they know about, but how many more are there that we don't know about? God gives them names, man gives them a number. Let me ask you, would you prefer to be known by your name, or by a number? We are all numbers in someone's book or business. They don't know us, they just know we are connected to account number "so-n-so."

God doesn't know you as a number. He knows your name, and your name was written into the book of life the moment you were born and given that name. Did you know there is a record with your name on it in the mind of God? Wouldn't you like to know what's in that record? Well, you can, and in fact you should. Everything you've ever thought, or said, or done is in that record, both the good and the bad, unless you have heard and obeyed the gospel and have had the blood of Christ clean up your record of everything that is sinful and offensive to your holy God.

Did you know that most people can go online, type their name in the search line and find that there is a lot of information about you out there? You might discover that there are many other people with your name also, but don't worry, God is not going to get you confused with anyone else. But there is a lot of information, if there has been anything with your name on it as a part of any kind of public record, it will probably be there on the internet. There may be some things that you wish were not that public, not that available, but there really isn't any good way to clean up that information. It's there pretty much there to stay, but not so with God. If you have anything attached to your name, to your record, it can all be wiped clean today. That's the power of the gospel!

I think it is interesting that several times God told parents what to name their children. He did that for Abraham and Sarah's son, Isaac. David was told to call his son Solomon. Zechariah and Elizabeth, parents of John the Baptist, were told what to call him. Joseph and Mary were given the name they were to call their son. Who named the first man and woman? The Bible says, God did, right?

Do you get the point? God knows your name. He doesn't just know who you are, HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE!

And here is the good news, if you are a Christian; if you have made Christ the Lord of your life by being obedient to His gospel, your name is also in another place. It has also been written in the Lamb's book of life. "What is that?" someone might wonder. Well, it is something every person needs to know about. It is something you need to make absolutely certain that your name is in it. Because if your name is not in that book, once you breathe your last breath, your worst nightmares are going to come true. Over in the book of **Revelation, chapter 20, beginning in verse 11**, we read:

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. **Another book was opened, which is the book of life.** The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13) The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15) **Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.***

A little later, in **chapter 21**, the writer went on to describe the grandeur of what awaits God's faithful people, **beginning in verse 22**, he said:

*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23) The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24) The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25) On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26) The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27) Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but **only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

So, are you for sure that your name has been written in the Lamb's book of life? Do you know when that happened? You need to think about that. When did you become a part of the Lord's people? That didn't happen just because you were born one day and grew up in a so-called Christian nation, or even in a Christian home. When was your name "added" to the Lamb's book of life? Well, it was when you obeyed the gospel, right? It was when you heard, and

believed, and decided to fully embrace the gospel, accepting the terms and conditions of the new covenant. It was when you were buried with Christ by baptism into His death—Romans 6—and your sins were washed away by His blood that you were added to the Lord's people—Acts 2:41 & 47.

But if you haven't done those things, if you haven't truly believed and obeyed the gospel, then the Lord has yet to write your name in His book of life. And if you have not been living a faithful life, but rather a lukewarm life, then in the lambs book of life, then it is possible that where your name was once found, is now an empty place as if your name had been erased. We know that happens, **Revelation 3:15-16** makes it very clear. Through the apostle John, God says, *"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."* You see, the Lord takes our confession and commitment seriously. Maybe we don't, but He does. **2 Timothy 2:19** says, *"Nevertheless, God's sure foundation stand firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.'"*

You see, there are a lot of people who have been duped into thinking and believing that just because they know the Lord's name, that He knows their name. How tragic it is going to be on that day when they learn that such is not always the case. Jesus tried to teach us and warn us about this, but many have not listened or taken His words to heart. Listen to Jesus as he is quoted by **Matthew in 7:21-23**:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22) Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23) Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

He said something similar to that on yet another occasion. In **Luke 13**, someone came to Jesus and asked him, if "only a few people are going to be saved?" Here was Jesus' answer to that question:

He said to them, 24) "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25) Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' 26) "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 27) "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'"

I love that passage found over in the **10th chapter of John's gospel**, where you may remember Jesus was talking about being the shepherd. In **verses 1-3**, he said:

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2) The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3) The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Don't you love that? *He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.* Are you one of His sheep? That isn't something you need to be pretty sure about. That is something you need to be absolutely certain about.

God knows me. He knew me even before I was born. He knew me before I breathed my first breath or gave forth my first cry. And He knows my name. He has been watching me closely since the first day I was born. I'm not saying that heaven is filled with millions and millions of filing cabinets filled with billions and billions of records, but the Bible does teach that there is a record, somewhere in the mind or providence of God, and that record has my name on it.

And if I have truly blessed, that record will also show during the time I have been alive, I was blessed to hear the gospel, and that I believed that good news, and that I fully embraced it, and having been baptized into Christ, my sins were washed away, and my name was written in another book, the Lamb's book of life.

Is that what your record shows? If not, then please accept God's loving grace this morning by deciding and doing what you know you need to do. And if you are not sure what that is, but you want to make sure, please let me know about that, will you. We are going to sing a song of encouragement at this time, and if there is anyone here who would like to respond, will you come as together we stand and sing.