

**"THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD"****Introduction**

1. God gives us practical guidance in Proverbs
2. Some think of religion as not practical
3. God's motive here is concern for our good

**1. THE BOOK OF PROVERBS TELLS US OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**

- 1) The God who created us expects us to seek Him:
  - (i) The universe is the theatre of God's glory
  - (ii) Man has God's image: Augustine's words
  - (iii) The Bible, supremely, is God's revelation  
**ILLUSTRATION**: A manual, as when you buy a car
- 2) Every faculty is satisfied only when we do:
  - (i) the mind: a sure view of reality and of life
  - (ii) the affections: joy results: eg. Ethiopian
  - (iii) the will: a desire in future to please God
  - (iv) the conscience: inward peace – "a river"
  - (v) the memory: experience of God's goodness  
**OBSERVE**: God requires no less: "Thou shalt love..."  
**APPLICATION**: Nothing is so precious as to know God.

**2. THIS KNOWLEDGE OF GOD: THE CONDITIONS FOR GETTING IT**

- 1) God gives this knowledge when we put it as our first and greatest priority in life
- 2) Solomon here shows what we are to do:
  - (i) v.1: "receive my words" – inspiration
  - (ii) v.1: "hide" – it is a personal thing
  - (iii) v.2: "incline...ear" – drink in the truth
  - (iv) v.2: "apply...heart" – it must come first
  - (v) v.3: "criest..." – prayer to God: "Show me"

- (vi) v.3: "lifest up..." – shout loud as in a situation of danger
- (vii) "as silver" – you know how men will do this
- (viii) "hid treasures" – not apparent till found  
**ILLUSTRATION**: A Bible with notes in it

- 3) Why do some never seem to find God?
  - (i) their heart is not in it:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: "A convenient season"
  - (ii) they treat religion as a mere convenience  
**ILLUSTRATION**: walking-stick v. crutch  
**APPLICATION**: Go into your room and cry out to God that He reveal Himself to you – go on knocking till He answers  
**ILLUSTRATION**: "For bad boys only"

**3. GOD PROMISES TO HEAR THE PRAYER OF ALL WHO SEEK HIM IN THE WAYS HERE STATED – AND TO BLESS THEM WITH ALL THE BEST BLESSINGS**

- 1) See v.5, 9: "Then": "wise unto salvation" –
  - (i) You see why God may use means to stir us up:  
Ex. illness / bereavement / loss (J. C. Ryle)
  - (ii) God may not answer at once – but we are to go on asking:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Syro-Phenician
- 2) Who can count the blessings which follow?
  - (i) understanding: wise in all your ways  
**ILLUSTRATION**: "hard drugs in the Highlands"
  - (ii) protection: v.7-8 God has a shield
  - (iii) the best friends: v.20. Cp. v.12, 16
  - (iv) "prosperity": v.21 "dwell in the land"
  - (v) eternal life: John 3:16

**CONCLUSION**

- 1.It is our wisdom to seek God
- 2.And our folly if we do not.
- 3.Do you want God's blessing?

**PSALM****37: 1 – 6****37: 16 – 22****37: 37 – 40**