**OMNISCIENT**

**“GREAT IS THE LORD & MIGHTY IN POWER;**

**HIS UNDERSTANDING HAS NO LIMIT.” Psalms 147:5**

Introduction:

Have you ever been in a class where one student tries to answer every question? They know the answers, and they are happy to share their knowledge.

Have you ever been around someone who thinks they have it all figured out? You can’t tell them anything. They don’t need counsel.

It’s like Mark Twain said, “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant, I could hardly stand to have him around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.”

The older we get, the more we begin to realize how little we really know and begin to realize how much we really don’t know.

I. The God Who does not learn

 A. Who is the most intelligent person that you know? You know the kind of person who has forgotten more than you ever knew. Even they only offer the faintest shadow of the God we worship.

 B. God is not merely knowledgeable; He is omniscient – limitless in His knowledge.

Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord and Mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.”

 C. He knows all things; not because He has learned them, but because He is their origin. (Col. 1:16) God does not learn. Learning implies change, and God is unchanging.

Heb. 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

 D. Learning implies there was something that you didn’t know and that doesn’t apply to God. (Job 37:16)

 Isaiah 40:14 “Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?”

 E. God never says, “I didn’t know that.”

 F. God, unbound by time, knows all things past, present & future, as well as all things existing outside of time.

 G. God never forgets because He is everywhere fully present.

 H. When we talked about His incomprehensibility, He holds perfect knowledge about Himself and us. (Isaiah 40:27-28)

 I. God knows every though before we think it. He knows every creature and every person. He knows everything there is to know about us.

 1. He knows the words we speak before we say it. (Psalms 139:4)

 2. He knows the number of hairs on your head. (Matthew 10:30)

 J. God knows all things perfectly. He knows nothing better than any other but all things equally well. He is never surprised. He never wonders.

 K. This is not true of us at all. Learning is foundational to being human. To be human is to learn.

II. Testing our learning limits

 A. God has left the universe open to our exploration.

 B. We are free to discover and learn.

 C. While it may be unclear if God has placed limits on how much knowledge the human race can explore, He has clearly placed limits on how much knowledge any one human can consume and use.

 D. As a result of the internet, information is being created in staggering amounts. Every minute, email users send 204 million messages, and Google has 4 million search queries.

 E. There is nothing wrong with wanting to learn, but an insatiable desire for information is a clear sign that we covet divine omniscience. We want all the facts, but as finite beings we are not designed to have them.

 F. Psychologists call this “information overload”. Too much information doesn’t bring peace to our minds but irritability, restlessness, anger and a short attention span.

 G. Information overload can cause us to lose empathy and lead to inaction. We are so overwhelmed, we don’t know what to do. As we continually hear about suffering constantly, we begin to get apathetic. That’s why in disaster movies, thousands of people may die, and we aren’t moved. But if the hero in the story gets wounded, we get emotional. Millions die in a tsunami, and we are unmoved. One dies in our school, and we care.

 H. While this is a problem, it is not a new problem. Humans have always believed that more knowledge is the solution to our problems. Take Adam & Eve, for example. They believed they needed to have the knowledge of good & evil – that God was holding out on them. They wanted to know what God knew.

 I. Our problem is that in our sinful, selfish nature, we desire to be limitless. We believe the lie that if we have access to limitless information, we will have more peace of mind. But our information gluttony doesn’t relieve our anxieties; it only increases them.

III. None of our business

 A. The link between anxiety & not knowing also shows itself in our desire for knowledge about the future.

 B. Unbelievers seek horoscopes and tarot cards. Believers can ask God for extra-biblical signs or take God’s promises out of context to try to know God’s will for the future.

 C. What would happen if we did know our futures? Would that be good? It would probably cause us to become even more self-reliant & less dependent upon God than we already are. And if it’s not a pleasant future, then we will probably feel overwhelmed.

 D. We can trust God to manage the future without our help. It is none of our business. And quite honestly, if you are unwilling to submit to God’s rule because you don’t know what the future holds, then that is an idol in your life. God is worthy to be followed even if you don’t know what the future holds. And for most of us, if God told us what the future would bring, we wouldn’t be able to deal with it.

IV. Let Go & Trust God

 A. We need to allow God to be the One who manages all knowledge. Only He is capable and can be trusted to do so with perfect wisdom.

 B. We need to allow our knowledge of who God is to remove our anxieties about tomorrow.

 C. This means spending less time trying to learn the newest thing on the internet and spending more time with God in the Scriptures.

 D. **Our comfort comes, not from holding all knowledge, but in trusting the One who does.**

 E. When you trust God as omniscient, you recognize four beautiful truths:

 1. You can’t outsmart God.

 a. You can’t come up with a better plan.

 b. You can’t teach Him a lesson.

 c. His ways are best – trust Him. (Psalms 18:30)

 2. You can’t bargain with God.

 a. You can’t convince Him to act in a certain way by offering Him conditional obedience.

 b. He has already decided to do what is best for you. He already knows the outcome. (Romans 8:38-39)

 3. You cannot fool God.

 Read Psalms 139:1-6

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,”

 a. God sees the real you. He already knows as you are.

 b. Apart from the cross, that is a terrifying thought.

 c. But because of the cross, we can rest in God.

 4. You can’t rely on God to forget.

 a. God is incapable of forgetting.

 b. Sometimes we hope He’ll forget about our sins.

 c. God knows, but because of the cross, He promises to not hold our sins against us. (Psalms 103:8-12)

 d. His inability to forget is good because it means He will always keep His promises toward us. (Isaiah 49:14-15)

V. Toppling the myth of Human Omniscience

 A. Because God holds all knowledge, we don’t have to.

 B. To us, our lives are full of all kinds of questions & uncertainties but not so with our omniscient God.

 C. Nothing is hidden from His eyes. Therefore, we are free to spend our years learning in healthy ways, to grow in understanding, not to become proud, but to be useful servants.

 D. We need to ask as we learn new information, “Will knowing this help me to be better able to serve God & others? Will this draw me into a closer love relationship with God? Does learning this cause me to worship myself or worship God?”

 E. When we don’t know, we can have assurance, because God knows. (Psalms 131:1-3)

 F. Those who fear God honor the limits He has placed on their minds, trusting what they do not know to the One who perfectly knows.

 G. God wants us to be about learning what He has revealed to us for our growth & understanding. What He has revealed is sufficient for salvation, godly lives & is worthy of our meditation. (2 Peter 1:2-3)

Conclusion:

God is omniscient. He knows everything there is to know about everything. He knows you perfectly, better than you know yourself. He knows your future.

Are you willing to trust God with your concerns, fears & doubts? You don’t have to have it all figured out or understand everything. If that were the case, none of us could be followers of God.

If you say, “I can’t follow God unless I know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (blank), or I can’t trust God unless I have this doubt removed”, then your doubts or knowledge are something you say you need more than God.

Whenever we say we need something more than God, it is an idol.

Are you willing to submit to God and say, “I will trust You & follow You even though I have some doubts or don’t have it all figured out”?

Let’s say God comes to you and He hands you a piece of paper and He says that this paper represents “His plans for your life”, and He wants you to sign it and by signing it you are in agreement with following God’s plan.

 (Hand out a blank piece of paper- God’s plan for your life)

You look at the paper and it is blank. And you say to God, “How can I sign this you haven’t written anything on it.”

God responds, “I am asking you to sign it and then I am going to write my plan on your piece of paper a little bit at a time.”

 You respond, “How can I sign it without knowing what you are going to write on it?”

God responds, “You have to be willing to trust me, that I love you and I know what is best for you.”

We don’t have to know in advance all that God has planned for our lives. We just have to be willing to trust in the One who does know all things.

Are you willing to sign the paper?

Small group questions

1.Does the fact that God knows everything about you (your past, present, and future) encourage you or scare you? Why?

2. How much does not having knowledge about your future bother you? Why/why not?

3. Discuss the statement: “More knowledge is the solution to our problems.”

4. How does the knowledge of the omniscience of God and the cross help you as you live your Christian life? What do you need to do to help you remember that on a daily basis?

5. If God handed you that blank piece of paper entitled, “God’s plan for your life” would you sign it? Why/why not?