

Scripture: Exodus 32:7-23

Confession of Faith: art 1 (3)

Singing: 405:1-4, 7 – 392:1, 2, 5 -- 86:1-3 – 178:1-4

Intro: To know God is the hidden remedy for our misery! (John 17:3)

A. To know God is a journey from *fear* (2 Cor. 5:11) to *joy* (Acts 7:55-56)

B. Don't be satisfied with *knowing about God* but seek to *know Him*

1. Pray over Jer 9:23-24; Gal. 4:9; Phil. 3:20; 1 John 2:13; 1 John 5:20

D. To know God is a grace-privilege: Phil. 1:29

Our faith in our God means we trust ...

I. That our God exist

II. That our God is One, simple and spiritual Being

III. That our God is the sum of all perfections (His glory)

IV. That our God not simply good but an overflowing fountain of all good

II. God is One, simple and *spiritual Being*

A. God's nature is *spiritual* according to Jesus' teaching in John 4:24

1. God already clearly revealed in OT that He is *spiritual*

a. Ex. 33:20-23 (34:5-7))

b. 2nd commandment (Ex. 20)

B. AS spiritual Being God is *invisible*

1. God exists in a form vastly superior to anything we can know

a. John 1:8; 6:46; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 4:12

2. Yet Bible saints *saw* God: 1 Cor. 15:8; Is. 6:1; Gen. 32:30: *how possible?*

C. God revealed Himself in a *form suited to our capacity (condescend)*

1. He revealed Himself in *hundreds of names & analogies* from human live

a. God compared Himself to animals

b. God compares Himself to people & their relationships

c. God uses physical body features to describe Himself

d. God reveals His emotions

2. He revealed Himself in *an appearance of Himself* (theophanies)

a. God sometimes took on a *human form*

● Gen. 18:1-2; 17 – Ex. 13:21-22 (Pillar) – Joshua 5:12-15 –
Judges 13:21-22 (Angel of LORD)

b. Greatest *appearance of God in human form* is our Lord Jesus Christ

● John 14:9; 1:18; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3

c. The saints in glory will 'see' God: Rev. 21:3; 22-24 – 22:3-4

Close: What are practical applications this this teaching?

A. God will always remain a 'mystery' (Rom. 16:25-20; John 21:25; Job 26:14)

1. This should keep us humble when we *speak about God*: Rom. 11:33-34

2. This should fill us with awe & carefulness when speak to God: Is. 6:1-3;
Ezra 9:5-6; Rev. 1:17

B. God wants us to know and trust Him: Ex. 25:22; John 20:26-29

C. God wants us to press on to know Him: Hosea 6:1-3

Questions to consider and discuss:

1. Discuss the expectation that God will always remain a mystery.
2. What are the verses of Scripture you find most revealing about God?
3. If to know God is a sovereign and personal gift, why does Scripture call us to seek for it?
4. How will a relationship with people be similar and yet different than a relationship with God?
5. What would you call your present relationship with God? Would you call it a personal relationship?
6. What would make your relationship with God better?