

SERMON OUTLINE

'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY'

Study - 1

Romans 1 v1 - 4 & v18 - 22

'What do we believe about God?'

Key Question - Why is it so important to believe in God - and not just to believe in Him, but actually know Him?

Answer - This is the answer to the meaning of our existence - who we are and why we are here. It's what we were made for - to know God. See - Jer 9 v23

'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT KNOWING GOD'

Key Question - How can this God be known? And even more basic - is there a God to be known?

Answer - Yes! Francis Schaeffer - 'He is there - and He is not silent' That is, God speaks - God communicates. But how?

1. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE WONDERS OF CREATION

See - Rom 1 v18 - 20 & Ps 19 v1 - 6

John Calvin - 'The universe is the theatre of God's glory'. That is, the whole of the universe has imprinted upon it - 'Made by God'

2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE INNER VOICE OF CONSCIENCE

See - Rom 1 v19 (lit) - "since what may be known about God is plain within them....." And see - Rom 2 v15a. The voice of conscience refuses to be silenced. Examples of this.....

Kingsley Amis (novelist) - 'I'm an atheist - yes! But it's more than that - I hate Him!'

Jean Paul Sarte (philosopher) -'Everything in me cries out for God. I don't know how to forget him.'

All of this ought not to surprise because, rationally, morally and spiritually we are made in the image of God.

3. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

See - Heb 1 v1 - 2a & Matt 1 v23. See also - Rom 1 v1 - 4.

Key Question - How can I see Jesus and how can I hear Jesus?

Answer - God's Son is seen and heard in God's word, the Bible.

4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

See - 1 Jn 1 v5 & Matt 5 v14 - 16. Example of this.....

See the article by Matthew Parris 'Africa needs God' - Times Newspaper, 27th December 2008

Key Point of Application - When God speaks to us in these ways, we can do one of two things.....

A. WE CAN HIDE FROM HIM

B. WE CAN COME TO HIM