

PBC Growing in Christ

Reverend Patrick and Stephanie Burrage

December 20, 2020

Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The cross is silhouetted against a sky with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun. The background shows a horizon line with some distant trees and a sky with scattered clouds.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





Knowing God

Psalm 119:17-24

**Who always gives you
great advice?**

Scripture
Knowing God
Psalm 119:17-18

17 Deal generously with your servant so that I might live; then I will keep your word. 18 Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction.





Knowing God

Psalm 119:17-18

**How has the Bible helped
you get to know God?**

**What benefits have you
experienced from studying
God's Word?**



Knowing God

Psalm 119:17-18

- We grow spiritually as we encounter God through His Word.
- The psalmist emphasized that the goal wasn't merely to know or understand God's instruction; it was to live it, keep it, and obey it.
- The psalmist pleaded for the Lord to open his eyes so that he could see the awesome teachings of the law. Because he had an open heart, he cried out for open eyes so that God would reveal His truth to him from the Word.
- Adam and Eve heard God's voice in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8-13). God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6); later He spoke again to Moses from Mount Sinai (see 20:1-19). Job heard God speak out of the whirlwind (see Job 38:1), and Saul of Tarsus heard His voice on the road to Damascus (see Acts 9:3-6). While only a few have heard the audible voice of God, everyone has the opportunity to "hear" God speak through His written Word. When we listen to God speak through His Word, we grow closer to Him.

**Scripture
Knowing God
Psalm 119:19-22**

19 I am a resident alien on earth; do not hide your commands from me. 20 I am continually overcome with longing for your judgments. 21 You rebuke the arrogant, the ones under a curse, who wander from your commands. 22 Take insult and contempt away from me, for I have kept your decrees.



Knowing God

Psalm 119:19-22

How has your knowledge of God helped you deal with opposition and trouble?

What has helped you grow in your desire for God's commands?



Knowing God

Psalm 119:19-22

- The sin-infested people around him were insulting and contemptuous toward him. They acted arrogantly; either proud of their sin or haughty in thinking they were beyond the need to follow God's instruction. The psalmist experienced relief and comfort from God's Word while living in this hostile environment.
 - His only escape from being vulnerable in a wicked land was the guidance of God's commandments and the security of God's righteous judgment.
 - The psalmist had a quiet confidence that God would straighten everything out. What mattered most wasn't what the cultural elite thought of him, but what God thought of him. And he knew God was pleased with the life choices he was making to know and obey God's commandments.
-

Scripture
Knowing God
Psalm 119:23-24

**23 Though princes sit together speaking against me,
your servant will think about your statutes; 24 your
decrees are my delight and my counselors.**

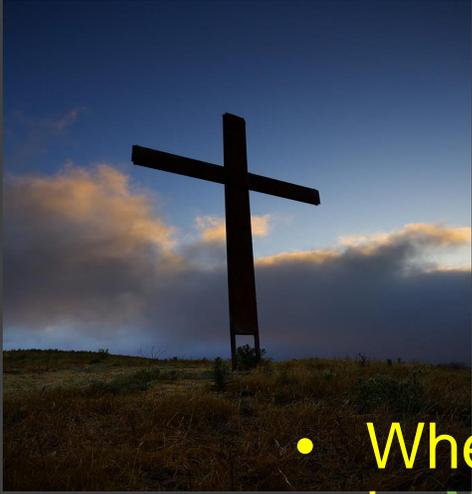


Knowing God

Psalm 119:23-24

Why is the Bible a better guide for decision-making than the leaders of our current culture?

What strategies have helped you meditate on God's Word?



Knowing God

Psalm 119:23-24

- When our focus is on how bad things are, we lose sight of how good God is. **We should give time to reading and reflecting on God's Word until its teachings become a part of our fiber.**
- Spending quality time in God's Word changes the way we think and respond to life. **Bible reading gives breadth. Bible study gives depth. Meditating on the Word gives perspective.**
- Then and only then will we have the proper life perspective to face the insults, contempt, and persecution coming from the sin-saturated world we live in.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

DECEMBER 20, 2020

- **Read God's Word.** If you're not spending time in God's Word, start now. Spend at least fifteen minutes every day reading God's Word. There are several apps available with reading plans, or simply read one chapter a day starting with Matthew.
- **Study God's Word.** Approach this time expectantly. Before you open God's Word, pray Psalm 119:18. Trust that God's Word is full of wondrous things and seek to find and understand them. Your pastor or group leader can recommend a commentary or study helps to assist you in your study.
- **Meditate on God's Word.** Turn off your TV, computer, and smartphone, and spend uninterrupted time meditating on God's Word. Choose to meditate on His Word instead of meditating on social media. Journal your thoughts and observations.



Final thoughts about Knowing God

- Unlike the sometimes-unreliable GPS, the Bible is always reliable. It will provide the direction, guidance, and perspective you need to navigate this sin-filled world.
- When we meditate on God's Word, it becomes the constant counselor that guides our decisions.
- The psalmist didn't view God's Word as a means to merely make his life better. The Lord's instruction was his reason for life.



Growing in Christ Preparation for learning

Bible.com

- Daily reflection on the topic of joy
- Dates: November 29-December 5
- Bible Study link:
<https://bible.com/p/35593788/461d171824262c1f33822f90649f9ff1>

Resources

- Psalm 119; 106:9; 9:5
- 2 Samuel 22:28
- Proverbs 16:5
- Isaiah 17:13
- Malachi 3:11
- Genesis 3:8-13
- Exodus 3:2-6; 20:1-19
- Job 38:1
- Acts 9:3-6
- **BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**
- **Bible.com**



Bible Study of Advent
December 13-22, 2020
Illuminate:
an advent series

<https://bible.com/p/36436207/175d779c80bf6b6a95973f32c04494cf>



Next Week: December 27, 2020
Intimacy with Jesus

John 17:1-5, 21-26

How do you choose to stay in
touch with people you don't see
all the time?



**God Bless
You!**

Rev. Patrick Burrage

734-787-8531

burragep007@gmail.com

Rev. Stephanie Burrage

734-787-8553

burragestephanie@comcast.net