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## Seek, Know & Serve God.

### Introduction.

This is a new study that has been titled “seek, know and serve God”.

Three points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

1. The repentant sinner is to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul.
2. Believers are to know the Lord their God.
3. Believers are to serve the Lord with a perfect heart and a willing mind.

### Our three points in more detail.

1. The repentant sinner is to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul.

#### Supporting Verse.

Jer.29: 13 “And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

#### Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Jeremiah had written a letter (verse 1) and sent it by the hand of Elasah and Shaphan (verse 3) to those that were left of the people that were taken from Jerusalem to Babylon (verse 1). The letter points out that it is God who caused them to be carried away and on that basis they are to carry on with their lives in Babylon (verses 5 – 7). Then he asks that they not listen to other prophets which may say something different (verse 8), for they prophesy falsely in the name of the Lord (verse 9).

\* In verse 10 Jeremiah makes his point: “That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.” This will be a fulfilment of the prophecy declared in Jer.25: 11 & 12 (c.p. Dan.9: 2). Jeremiah continues and says that the Lord’s thoughts toward the people are for peace, to give them an expected end (of their desolation). Referring back to the 70 year period, after its end, the people shall “call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me and I will hearken unto you” (verse 12).

\* Then we have our verse: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (verse 13). And the next verse says, that “I will be found of you”. Therefore, if Israel, following the sin of their fathers, trust the Lord and walk through the 70 years of desolation that was foretold, and then seek Him with all their heart and soul, then he will be found by them.

#### Other scriptural support.

1Chr 28:9, Deut.4: 29, 2Chr.11: 16, 15:2, Is.55: 6 & Amos 5: 4.

#### Scriptural examples.

\* The kings of Israel that were “good kings” encouraged Israel and Judah to seek the Lord after they had sinned, as we see with Hezekiah who prayed and asked the Lord to “pardon every one (verse 18) That prepareth his heart to seek God, the Lord God of his fathers” (2Chr.30: 18b, 19) King David wrote a psalm encouraging the people to: “Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually” (1Chr 16:11).

#### Application of our verse today.

\* The Old Testament Jew had a history of doing that which was right in their own eyes, then after enduring tribulation they would turn to the Lord with all their heart, and He would turn again to them. In the New Testament Paul preached that the same God can be found of those at Athens, if they “seek the Lord”, as He is “not far from every one of us” (Acts 17: 27), whilst at the same time we acknowledge that “of the children of men” (Ps.14: 2) “there is none that seeketh after God” (Rom.3: 11), because their deeds are evil (Jn.3: 20). When a man is convicted of his sin and seeks God for cleansing then He will be found.

#### Illustration.

\* When you talk to people and they say, “they want to know the true God, whether that be the Lord Jesus Christ, or Allah, or Krishna, and they don’t care which one, but they desire the truth”, then God will lead them on a journey to know the truth. But we do not know if they mean what they say or not, because seeking takes place in a man’s heart & soul (1Chr.22: 19), with all his heart (2Chr. 31: 21).

Learning from our Illustration.

\* I have said to Muslim's, atheists and others that have said they are seeking God: to go home, get on their knees and ask God to reveal Himself to them, and if they are seeking Him with all their heart and soul then **He** leads them to **His** truth. Do they go home and tell God that they seek Him among the multitude of religions, or were their words hot air? I do not know. But if a lost man seeks, and knocks at the door, it will be open (Rev.3: 20), and he will find the truth of the Holy Scriptures, that reveal His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* The only way a lost man can come to God, is with a humble heart, repentant of his sin, and seeking the Lord with his whole heart and soul, and he does so in prayer. The saved, backslidden man who is seeking to get right with his God, can do so by prayer and fasting, by seeking Him with a perfect heart (1Chr.28: 9). Let us encourage the lost and the backslidden to seek God with all their heart and soul, "if haply they might feel after him, and find him" (Acts 17: 27).

## 2. Believers are to know the Lord their God.

Supporting Verse.

1Chr 28:9 "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father..."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Chapter 28 begins with David speaking to the people about how God told him that he was not to build the house of the Lord (verse 3). David told the congregation that God had chosen his son Solomon to succeed him on the throne of Israel (verse 5). And that the Lord God chose Solomon to build the house of the Lord (verse 6), and that God will establish Solomon's kingdom for ever if he obeys the Lord's commandments (verse 7). He reiterates this in verse 8, where he notes that In the sight of the congregation and the Lord he asked Solomon to keep and obey the commandments of the Lord. Then we have our verse, where he says to his son Solomon: "know the God of thy fathers". What a wonderful instruction for a man to pass on to his son.

Scriptural examples of knowing God!

Deut.7: 9, 1Kgs.8: 60, 2Chr.13: 5, Eze.30: 8 and 2Cor.8: 9.

Application of our verse today.

\* Our verse was written as part of the Jewish oracles of God, and is as applicable to the Jew (then) as it is to those (Jew or Gentile) who are in Christ today. A man who has not believed the gospel in vain does not continue to live in the lusts of the flesh, spending all his time with the same abominable friends (Eph.5: 1), and growing in his knowledge of the god of this world. But rather he desires to grow in his knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the God of the Bible (2Pet.3: 18).

Illustration.

\* Two weeks ago Deiter, who was an international traveller staying at the backpackers got saved by God's grace. Following his conversion he said he would meet me there on the street the following week, as I did not have a copy of: "The Next Step" (Chick Publication's book). What happened? I turned up the following week with the book and no Deiter. How can Deiter come to know his God, that he had just received, if he does not fellowship with like-minded believers that can help him grow in his knowledge of Christ, the battle and his role in the body?

Learning from our Illustration.

\* For a young believer, or for any believer for that matter to know the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he needs to:

- i) Fellowship with like-minded believers (1Jn.1: 7), who can encourage him, guide him and help him not to be devoured by the adversary (1Pet.5: 8).
- ii) Read the Scriptures and pray, to know their God more each day, because as believers we are to increase in the knowledge of God (Col.1: 10 and 2Pet.3: 18), not stay stagnant.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Imagine joining the army, and on the first day you are taken to Iraq to fight ISIS. You may be called a soldier, but unless someone teaches you about the enemy, your weapons, defence

systems, and about your commander and chief who guides you, you will be floundering, lost and open to be picked off by the enemy. It is no different in this spiritual battle that a young believer is thrust into. He needs to be nurtured, cared for, fed from the pure milk of the word, and encouraged daily and prayed for by his brothers. He is to know his God, so that he can learn to trust Him each day. The babe in Christ is to know what his God has done for Israel and for the world in Christ, that he can go on to teach the same knowledge to others.

### 3. Believers are to serve the Lord with a perfect heart and a willing mind.

Supporting Verse.

1Chr 28:9 "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

Context of our verse: the same as our previous point.

Other scriptural support.

\* Serve the Lord with all your heart: Deut.10: 12, 11: 13, Josh.22: 5, 1Sam.7: 3 and 1Sam.12: 20.

Scriptural examples.

\* David was an example of a man who served the Lord with a perfect heart (1Kg.15: 3).

Application of our verse today.

\* Those in the body of Christ are not commanded in the New Testament to serve the Lord with a perfect heart and a willing mind. A believer in Christ is a new creature, and God requires them to no longer serve sin (Rom.6: 6). We previously were servants of sin, "but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you" (verse 17). Let us suggest that when a man lives according to the Scriptures he goes some way to serve the Lord with a perfect heart and a willing mind. But what does it mean to serve God with a perfect heart? Look at the example of David, and his attitude to his sin. All men sin, but it is our attitude to our sin that demonstrates the quality of our service: do we introduce other authorities to deny our sin, cover it up, twist the scriptures out of their context, or get on our knees and repent and turn away from sin?

Illustration.

\* A Roman Catholic counsels you from his own point of view, to give up preaching on the street because you are making a menace of yourself. Then a graduate of a bible college who counsels you to cease striving for the lost souls in the Roman Catholic religion, is unaware of Satan's use of the Roman Catholic institution to deceive many. Then lastly, a bible believer counsels you to serve your God with a perfect heart and a willing mind according to the Scriptures. Which of these three men will you receive counsel from as you seek to serve your God?

Learning from our Illustration.

\* The last one of course! Because those that teach contrary to the doctrines of Paul, "serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom.16: 18). They do not serve the living God! When a man serves God with a perfect heart he will encourage others to do the same (2Chr.35: 2), and work out the commandments of the Lord (2Chr.35: 18).

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Let each one of us that knows our God, serve Him with a perfect heart, and a willing mind, do so in truth (1Sam.12: 24), and encourage other brethren to do the same.

### Summary of our three points.

1. The repentant sinner is to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul.
2. Believers are to know the Lord their God.
3. Believers are to serve the Lord with a perfect heart and a willing mind.