

Sermon preached at Faith Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Virginia,  
on Sunday, January 3, 1993, by the Rev. W. Graham Smith, D. D.

### **HEBREWS 4:13**

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account,”

### **GETTING TO KNOW GOD**

#### **(1) What God Knows About You**

Today we begin a new series called “Getting to Know God”. We’re going to be reflecting on the attributes, the characteristics of God – What is God really like? The Bible says that we can know God. In fact, God wants you to know Him. And, of course, you cannot trust God until you first know Him. Paul says that the goal of his life was to “know Christ and the power of His resurrection.” (Philippians 3:10)

Let us begin by asking the question – What does God know about you? In Heb. 4:13 we read, “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account.” Think of that! Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. And in Ps. 147:5 it says, “His understanding has no limit.”

Now, theologians call this the omniscience of God (Omni – all; Scientia – knowledge). And that simply means – God knows everything. There’s no question He cannot answer. There’s no problem that confuses Him. He’s never surprised or shocked. He never says, “Oh, really?!”

God knows everything. Now, let’s see what is:

#### **1. The scope of God’s Knowledge**

a. **God knows all about Himself.** You say, “that sounds kind of strange!” But, you don’t know all about yourself. That’s why you have a lot of problems. I’m constantly surprising myself. There are things that I thought I could do that I can’t and things that I can do that I thought I couldn’t because I really don’t know myself. But, God knows Himself, and He knows that He can do anything.

b. And then, **God knows all about creation.** He knows everything that He has made. Gen. 1:31 says that after God had finished making the universe, He saw everything He had created, and He said, “It is excellent in every way!” He saw every star, every galaxy, every rock, every blade of grass, every fish – the whole lot – and He said, “It couldn’t be improved upon!” And then Jesus said that every time a tiny sparrow falls to the ground, God notices (Matthew 10:29).

c. And, **God knows all about history.** He knows the past. He knows the present. He knows the future. He knows everything that has happened. He knows everything that is happening right now. He knows everything that will ever happen. Indeed, He knows everything

that could have happened but didn't; and everything that could happen but won't! He knows the scope of history from beginning to end.

But what I'm interested in talking about today is:

## **2. What does God know about you and me personally?**

The Bible says in Psalm 139 that God knows everything about you. He's intimately acquainted with you. And, we say that we believe God knows everything about us, but often we really don't act as if He did. So, today I want to remind you of five specific areas that God knows everything about in your life – and the difference it will make if you remember this.

**a. God knows all about my FAULTS and FAILURES.** Ps. 69:5 (GN) says, "My sins, Oh God, are not hidden from You; You know how foolish I have been." Sometimes we want to forget the omniscience of God because it's very uncomfortable to realize that I can't keep any secrets from Him!

Now foolishly, when we do something wrong, we usually try to hide our sins and sneak it past God; put it in a closet and lock the door. But, God knows exactly what's behind that locked door.

When Adam sinned, he tried to hide from God. But, God came and said, "Adam, where are you?" Now remember, when God asks a question, it is never for information. He knew exactly where Adam was. God said to Cain, "Hey, where's your brother Abel?" God knew that Cain had murdered his brother. He just wanted Cain to admit it.

Look at Proverbs 5:21, "For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all his paths." That means that you always have an audience. Nothing you ever say or do is off the record. God is always watching. You're always on stage. God sees it all.

That means that you're tempted to do something wrong; and Satan says, "No one will ever know." So, you give in, and then he haunts us with another question, "What if I am found out? What if my parents find out what I've been doing? What if my wife; what if my husband; what if my boss finds out? What if the IRS finds out?" Folks, I hate to tell you, but you've already been found out. God knows, and He's the One that counts.

So, what's the fact? The fact is this – God is not surprised by my sin. He saw it coming. And, you don't come to God and say, "God, I need to tell You about something..." And, when you confess, God doesn't say, "Oh no! How could, that have ever happened?!" He says, "I know; I understand; indeed, I know why it happened."

So, my response to that is - - if He knows everything, then I must be honest with God. Just admit your sin. He still loves you. So, when you come to Him and admit your wrongdoing, it never changes how He feels about you, because He already knows. He loves me unconditionally, so I don't need to fake it or pretend. Proverbs 28:13 (GN) says, "You never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you."

William Casey may have taken some Iran-Contra secrets to the grave with him. But God knows.

**b. God knows all about my FEELINGS and FRUSTRATIONS.** Listen to Psalm 31:7 (LB), “You (God) have listened to my troubles and have seen the crisis in my soul.” Perhaps you are saying, “Nobody knows what I am going through. Nobody feels the pain I’m enduring.” Maybe no other human being knows, but God knows. He sees the crisis in your soul.

Psalm 56:8 (CN) says, “You know how troubled I am; You have kept a record of my tears.” There is no hurt that goes unnoticed by God. Often when we are hurting, we feel very isolated and lonely. A death occurs in the family; or a divorce; or you’ve lost your job. God knows all about it.

What does God think when He knows how you feel? Listen to Psalm 103:13-14 (LB), “He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic...for He knows what we’re made of – dust!”

Now, here’s the fact – God is sympathetic to my hurts. Not only does He see - - He cares. You see, God understands why it happened. He knows the very circumstances that brought you to this point in your life. And, He sees how it all fits together. He sees the hurt in your heart.

So, what should I do? Ps. 142:3 (GN) says, “When I am ready to give up, He knows what I should do.” Some of you may be ready to give up this morning, and God knows what you ought to do.

So, your response is – if He sees all your hurts, then give them over to Him. 1 Peter 5:7 (LB) says, “Let Him have all your worries and cares, for He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.” The Greek says, “Let Him have them permanently – once and for all – never take them back again!” Give Him your hurts just as you give Him your faults.

**c. God knows all about my FUTURE.** In fact, He knew it even before I was born. Ps. 139:16 (GN) says, “The days allotted to me had all been recorded in Your Book before any of them ever began. And, look at Jeremiah 29:11, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord... ‘plans to give you hope and a future.’” He knows His plans for you and He knows your future.

Everyone is interested in the future, and it’s amazing the things people will try in order to know what the future holds – astrology, horoscopes, reading tea leaves, consulting fortune tellers, biorhythms, and so on. You see, they’re going to the wrong source. There is Somebody Who knows what is going to happen next.

The fact is, God sees my tomorrows today. You need to understand that God is not limited by time. He can be in the past, the present, and the future all at the same time. In fact, He is! It is as if you were in the Goodyear Blimp looking down on the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena on New Year’s Day. And, from the blimp you can see the beginning of the parade and

the end of the parade all at the same time. And God, from His perspective, can see past, present, and future all at once. God sees my tomorrows today!

Now, that gives me great confidence in God; to believe that He knows everything that's ever going to happen in my life. You see, He is already prepared for everything you're going to face down the road tomorrow, next week, next year. Nothing ever catches God by surprise. And, the crisis you'll experience next month He has prepared for already.

So, what is my response? If I know that God knows all my tomorrows today, then my response is simple – ask for His advice, because He knows what is going to happen! Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call on Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” God says, “The things you don't know, I can tell you about.” Now, He's not going to tell you everything that's going to happen in your life. If He did, you might get very discouraged, or very full of pride, or both! He will lay it out a little at a time.

I'll let you into a little secret. It's a “bear” preparing a new and fresh message for you good folk every Sunday, but I get great inspiration and encouragement when I realize that even though I don't know, God knows everything I'm going to say next Sunday! When people ask me – “What's your best sermon?” I always say, “I hope it is the one I preach next week!”

Now, when you get up tomorrow morning and you read your Bible for 5 or 10 minutes; and pray; and go over your schedule with the Lord; you ought to say something like this, “Now Father, You've already seen this day that I'm about to experience; and You know ahead of time every interruption I'm going to face; every traffic jam; every cranky person in the office; every time the baby will bring up all over me! Lord, You have already seen it. So, please give me the strength to cope with every event of this day.”

**d. God knows all about my FEARS.** He knows everything that gets you uptight. And, often things that frustrate us are in the area of finances – our needs. Let's read Matthew 6:31-32, “So do not worry saying, ‘What shall we eat...or what shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” God knows everything that you need.

Now, let me ask you a frank question – Do you ever act as though God is unaware of your bills? “Don't You see, God, I'm going under. We just can't make it...” Whenever you don't remember that God knows, then you get exasperated and you fall apart. Do you know something? Worry is the result of not realizing the omniscience of God. When I figure that God doesn't know what's going on in my life, and that He doesn't really care; then I think, “I've got to take matters into my own hands!” You see, worry is trying to play God. So, you assume responsibility for things for which God wants to assume responsibility.

I believe that every basic emotional problem that people have is a result of not understanding the attributes of God – a misunderstanding of Who He is and what He does. When you know God, it brings emotional stability in your life. Stress is created when you forget what God knows, and what God does and what He has promised to do in your life. Matt. 6:8 says, “...your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

Now, here's the fact – God is aware of all my needs; financial needs, spiritual needs, social needs, emotional needs. He knows what you need even before you ask. Now, let me point out that prayer is never giving God information. He already knows what's going on in your life. So, what's the use of praying? I'll tell you. You don't pray in order to tell your needs to God. He already knows them. You pray to get the answer to your needs, to receive the solution to your problems. He's just waiting for you to ask Him for help. The Bible says, "You have not because you ask not." (James 4:2)

So, if God knows all my needs, what is my response? My response is – don't worry! Just trust God. Phil. 4:6 (LB) says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything." Paul is saying, "Don't panic: Pray!" Think this through with me – If God knows all my needs, then I don't have to get His attention, because I already have His attention. He knows my every need, so I can talk to Him about anything in my life. He's just waiting for me to ask, and He's just waiting to answer. Then there's one other thing:

e. **God knows all about my FAITHFULNESS.** In other words, every time I do the right thing, God is watching! Every time, instead of sinning, I choose not to sin; every time I resist a temptation; every time I stand for something; God understands, and He takes note of my faithfulness to Him.

Look at these great verses, Matthew 6:1 & 4 – Jesus is speaking and He says, "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men to be seen by them... then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Now, here's the fact – every good deed will be rewarded, regardless of how insignificant, regardless of whether anyone else on earth saw it or not. Every encouragement you give to other people; every kind word or compliment you give to your children; every time you do a thoughtful act for your husband or wife; every time you had the opportunity to gossip, and you didn't; every time you had the opportunity to be critical and you weren't – God sees it all. Every time you gave a sacrificial offering, and God knew how much you had left over; every time you helped someone in need; God saw it, and He will reward you.

I want you to imagine this morning that you are on a stage all by yourself, and you are acting out your life. In the audience there's only one Person, and it's God. And, he's saying, "I see that good thing you just did. Nobody else saw it, but I did!" My friend, learn to live out your life for an audience of one – God. That's all that counts.

It doesn't really matter how I appear in public. What matters is the integrity of your life when no one is looking – because there is someone looking – God. Is that not splendid motivation to live a godly life? Nothing in your life is done in secret. God sees it all. God knows all about your faithfulness.

So, what should be my response? If God sees all the good things you do, then your response should be – don't get discouraged! Perhaps you say, "I've tried to be a good Christian at work; I've been trying to have a good testimony at school; and I just don't know if it's paying

off. Frankly, I don't see it making an impact on anyone's life." But, God says, "I see it; and no good thing ever goes unrewarded." Every act of kindness, every word of testimony - - God is recording it all.

Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for, at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." And, in Matthew 10:42 our Lord says, "if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to someone as a disciple of Mine, he will certainly not lose his reward."

God knows all my faults and failures, but He still loves me.

God knows all my frustrations, and He cares about me.

God knows all about my future, so I can ask Him for guidance.

God knows all about my fears, so I don't need to worry or get into a panic. And,

God knows all about my faithfulness, so I never need to get discouraged.

Our omniscient God! Isn't He the One to love and trust and obey as we set off down the road into 1993?

**AMEN!**