

I WANT TO KNOW

Psalm 119:161-168

INTRODUCTION

- A. Show Me!
 - 1. In 1899, during a speech in Philadelphia, Missouri's U.S. Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver said: "I come from a state that raises corn and cotton and cockleburs and Democrats, and frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I am from Missouri. You have got to show me."
 - 2. Have you ever been told something and your response was, "Unless I see it, I won't believe it?"
 - 3. We are a people that at times are very hesitant to accept things at face value.
- B. And is it also possible, that same thinking leaks over into our spiritual walk with God?
 - 1. As simple as the message may be – we still want "proof"!
 - 2. Moses asked for proof for the Israelites, Exodus 4.
 - 3. The Pharisees seeking proof of Jesus' authority, Luke 11, 20.

I. I WANT TO KNOW.

- A. Elijah and the Widow.
 - 1. 1 Kings 17:17-24
 - 2. The oil and flour that never ran out.
 - 3. When child died and raised, "*Now I know that you are a man of God...*"
- B. Thomas and Jesus.
 - 1. John 20:24-29
 - 2. Jesus appears to the apostles; Thomas is absent.
 - 3. When told, "*Unless I see the nail prints and put my hand in His side...*"
 - 4. "*My Lord and my God!*"
- C. Paul and Knowing Christ.
 - 1. Paul said it a little differently.
 - a. There was never a doubt as to Christ, his Savior.
 - b. Philippians 3:8-10
 - 2. I want to know Christ (no matter the cost)!
 - a. To be found in Him.
 - b. Power of His resurrection.
 - c. Fellowship of His suffering.

II. KNOWING GOD.

- A. Standing in Awe of God, vss. 161-162.
 - 1. In spite of persecution without cause.
 - 2. God's Word is like finding a treasure.
 - 3. Parable of Jesus, Matthew 13:44
 - 4. *Precious Book Divine*, #443
- B. A Love for God's Word, vss. 163-165.
 - 1. Psalm 119:11, "*Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.*"
 - 2. I wonder if (like some engaged couples) we are "in love with love"?

- a. They haven't looked at the demands of marriage.
 - b. We are quick to post Bible verses.
 - c. We are faithful in attendance, but...
 - d. Luke 9:59-62
- 3. The Israelites were in love with God – His “rituals”.
 - a. They gloried in the presence of God – cloudy and fiery pillar.
 - b. They thanked God for manna, quail and water.
 - c. Their strength was in the ark of the covenant, tabernacle, priesthood.
 - d. But the warnings:
 - i. *“For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burn offerings.”* Hosea 6:6
 - ii. Amos 5:21-24
- C. A True Relationship with God, vss. 165-168.
 - 1. *“I hope for Your salvation – and do Your commandments.”*
 - 2. *“I love Your testimonies exceedingly – and my soul keeps them.”*
 - 3. *“All my ways are before You – and I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies.”*
 - 4. God has always longed for a relationship with His people.
 - a. Adam and Eve in the garden – walking.
 - b. Abraham – covenant with him.
 - 5. But it is a relationship built on holiness ***and*** obedience.
 - a. *“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”* 1 Peter 1:16
 - b. 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - c. *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments”*, John 14:15.

CLOSING

- A. A relationship with God is more than standing in awe of His power.
 - 1. It goes beyond a desire to know His word.
 - 2. And it goes beyond faithful attendance.
- B. *“I want to know Christ...”*
 - 1. To be found in Him...through faith in Christ.
 - 2. To attain to the resurrection from the dead.