



WALKING BY FAITH

How Well Do You Know God?

EXODUS 32:1-6

"Beware of manufacturing a God of your own: a God who is all mercy, but not just; a God who is all love, but not holy; a God who has a Heaven for everybody, but Hell for none; a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time, but will make no distinction between good and bad in eternity. Such a god is an idol of your own, as true an idol as was ever molded out of brass or clay. The hands of your own fancy and sentimentality have made him. He is not the God of the Bible, and besides the God of the Bible, there is no god at all."

Rev. J. C. Ryle, *For Those Who Are Not Christ's*

When it comes to God, ignorance is not bliss.

God's greatest desire is for His children to know Him.

Long before Mount Sinai, God gave the following message to His people.

"Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.'" Exodus 6:6-7

But the Israelites had not grown in their knowledge of God.

They saw Him as distant and aloof

He was oppressive and demanding

His laws were stringent and restrictive

Ignorance of God produces:

... _____ – a reluctance to wait on God

Getting to know God requires **waiting**.

... _____ – a refusal to obey God

Getting to know God demands **submission**.

... _____ – a redefining of God

Getting to know God demands **faithfulness**.

... _____ – a rejection of the ways of God

Getting to know God demands **purity**.

WAYS TO GROW IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Read and study God's Word regularly.

Pray more frequently and expectantly.

Obey willingly.

Make godly relationships a priority.

HOME GROUP STUDY & DEVOTIONAL

As you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 32:1-6. In what ways do the words in verse 1 violate what God recently told Israel in ...

20:2?

20:3?

20:4?

2. Where did the gold for the calf idol come from (see 11:2-3; 12:35-36)? What was this gold supposed to be used for (see 25:2-9)?

3. What desires do you think motivated Israel to request manufactured gods?

4. Why are people so prone to making idols?

5. Compare the golden calf incident in this passage of Exodus with 1 Kings 12:25-33. How are they similar?

6. What "idols" have you embraced in your life, and how did they turn you from God?

7. Of the four things produced by ignorance of God from the sermon notes, which have you struggled with most, and why?

8. How has this sermon encouraged you to know God more? How will you do this going forward?

FOR DEEPER STUDY

The word "apostasy" literally means "to stand away from" (Gr. *apostasis*). This word describes a departure from some previous position. An apostate is someone who renounces a former belief or principle. In the religious sense the word refers to someone who abandons or departs from God's will. "Apostate" is not necessarily a synonym for "unbeliever." The person who departs from God's will could be either a believer or an unbeliever. The term, in the religious sense, relates to obedience, not salvation. Most of the apostates in Israel were apparently believers, since the Bible consistently regards Israel—as a whole—as the people of God. The great majority of Israelites at Mt. Sinai had been redeemed in the Exodus. They had expressed saving faith by applying the blood on their doorframes on the night of the Passover.

—Tom Constable

To learn more about Israel's apostasy, read ...

Deuteronomy 9:7-21

Psalms 106:19-23

1 Corinthians 10:1-13.

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)

2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)

3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we have in life? To know God. What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? To know God. What is the best thing in life? To know God. What in humans gives God most pleasure? Knowledge of Himself.

J. I. PACKER

We tend to be a generation of Christians who major on minor matters but do not seem to possess the true measure of the gospel in the knowledge of God. We do not really know God. At best we know about Him.

SINCLAIR FERGUSON

God is truly knowable but not exhaustively comprehensible.

JOHN MACARTHUR

God in His grace forgives our sins, but God in His government allows sin to work out its terrible consequences in human life. We reap what we sow (Gal 6:7-8). For example, God put away David's sin, but warned him that the sword wouldn't depart from his own household, and it didn't (2 Sam 12:1-14). What a tragedy it is to reap the consequences of forgiven sin!

WARREN WIERSE

Israel's lust for idols was born in Egypt and still worked in their hearts. Aaron fed that appetite by giving the people what they wanted. Much is being said these days about "meeting the felt needs of people," but here was a nation that didn't know what its needs really were. They thought they needed an idol, but what they really needed was faith in their great God, who had revealed Himself so powerfully to them. Israel exchanged the glory of the true and living God for the image of an animal, which means they acted like the heathen nations around them. Many people can rise early to sin but not to pray. ... What a tragedy it is to reap the consequences of forgiven sin!

JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit ccbcfamily.org/events.



WE'D LOVE TO GET TO

KNOW YOU Scan the QR code to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions, learn more about your story, and help you take your next best step. Along the way, you can also learn more about who we are and our vision for ministry!

SERVE IN SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Did you know 20% of the people in our communities have special needs? That means many of those in our own backyard include individuals and families impacted by disabilities. Right here in our church, our Special Needs Ministry opens the door for you to make disciples. No experience is needed — just a heart to serve. Join us on Sundays and see lives transformed, hearts changed, and God's joy on full display. Start the conversation about serving at ccbcfamily.org/specialneeds.



ELDER AND DEACON

CANDIDATES Scan this QR code to see our full list of Elder and Deacon nominations. This list has been unanimously approved by our Board of Elders, and it also includes the constitutional requirements for these leadership positions. If you are a constitutional member of Christ Chapel, you received a voting link on Wednesday, Aug. 27, to cast your vote by today, Aug. 31, at 12:30 p.m. Results will be announced at our annual meeting today at 1 p.m. at the South Campus.

GET TO KNOW CHRIST CHAPEL

Embark is a class perfect for anyone wanting to learn more about Christ Chapel or explore membership. Whether you're new or have been part of our church for years, Embark will help you learn more about our vision, beliefs, and values, connect with others at Christ Chapel, consider your next best step, and meet our staff and pastors. Learn more about our upcoming classes at ccbcfamily.org/embark.

FIND YOUR GROUP We want you to experience authentic, lasting community every day of the week. Our home groups are designed to help you grow deeper in your faith and walk alongside one another as we live out the gospel together. We believe that this is one of the most powerful ways the church can truly be the church! Join a group today at ccbcfamily.org/groups.

YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMS If your children have a love for music, we'd love to partner with you in nurturing that gift — for their growth and God's glory. We offer a range of youth music programs tailored to various ages, experiences, and interests. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/music.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.