

dec 7

knowing God

"for i know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm." jonah 4:2

do you really know God who do you just know of Him? there's quite a difference. it makes me think of all the hurtful gossiping people do, often spreading facts they even know to be untrue. how well did the Holy Spirit compose the scripture, "but no man can tame the tongue. it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." james 3:8

it takes the Holy Spirit to tame our tongues and keep us from spreading deadly poison. i once had a pastor who used to say a single drop of poison will ruin the whole pot. "do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" 1 cor 5:6 the enemy will always try to mix truth and untruth to deceive.

i would even go so far as to say, a pot too spicy might turn some away. me? i like things the hotter the better, but that's not everyone's taste. the point being, our words should be seasoned with grace. it's the Holy Spirit's job to convict someone; not ours. we do not need to be telling everyone what they are doing wrong but encourage them in the potential you see in them through God.

but i get side tracked off the intended message. you see, jonah was sent to pronounce judgement and doom on

a whole city. when they repented, God relented. and old jonah just got angry, perhaps because he looked like foolish. he told God - "God, that's just like you. that's why i tried to run away. i knew You would be merciful to a humble heart." at lest that's what i feel is the gist of their conversation.

yes, jonah knew his God. do you know Him well enough that if you were to hear something, you could adamantly proclaim, "not my God!" there are so many disparaging things spoken against God and His people these days. people may slip, and often do, but not our God. if it looks bad or seems have taken a wrong turn, we know where the fault lies. "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." rom 8:28 we do not have the understanding of God or the foreknowledge of what will be.

we don't know "things," but we know our God. the calvanists believe someone is destined to be saved or not. (like they have no choice in the matter.) if that's the case, why do we toil and languish over a lost soul. why did Jesus say, "whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." mat 10:32 why are we told, and repeat, "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." rom 10:9-10

and why did peter proclaim that God is, "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9 why does the gospel say our

eyes are blinded by the god of this world. "he has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." john 12:40

i know the many scriptures that seem to indicate we're chosen before birth for a purpose and have no choice; ones like pharaoh and jacob being loved while esau was hated. i also know God has dealt to each a measure of fath with our free will. our understanding of these scriptures must be blinded for some unknown reason.

can you see God telling a repentant heart, "sorry, i destined you for another purpose." yes, the scriptures say, "many are called, but few chosen." matt 20:16 as a former pastor used to say, "you're called and when you come, you're chosen." chosen and then "predestined" to become sons of God.

i'm talking about "knowing" your God. "the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." dan 11:32 people try to dilute the power of God, either through outright denial or hard-headed knowledge. they say things like all the gifts given to men, healing, etc. have now passed away. my bible says, "heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." matt 24:35

those diluting the word of God are diluting the power of God. "this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins." 2 tim 3:6 (women being representative of those not strong in the word.) don't be among these. know your God and be

able to back it up with scripture and power and "let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ." phil 1:27

at least that's the God i love and serve. i believe the "whosoever" that will can know and love Him too.