

# GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

## The Limitations of Man's Knowledge

### Various Scriptures

*Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor*

*July 19, 2020*

Only God is omniscient and we are reminded often in Scripture that our own knowledge is very limited and that we must be growing in the knowledge of God.

Biblical anthropology says we don't really understand the heart of man unless and until we've studied the Creator to see how He describes us.

Since the Garden of Eden, man has been lured by the appeal of acquiring God-like knowledge. "If only we can know more, we can gain in power and be like God." In reality, this quest can be a futile attempt to be free from God's authority.

In Scripture, the pursuit of knowledge is linked to knowing the mind and will of God (Proverbs 9:10).

God's judgment of man's presumption of knowledge (Hosea 4; Isaiah 47:8-10; Jeremiah 10:6-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31).

## Applications

1. We must increase in our knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-14 urges believers to grow in the knowledge of God because such knowledge leads us to:

Walk in a manner pleasing to God

Bear fruit that glorifies Him

Be steadfast, patient, and joyfully grateful.

2. We must humbly and regularly be aware of the limitations of our own knowledge.

## Questions to Consider

1. How does the world view the acquisition of knowledge? Why is the pursuit of knowledge so important from a worldly perspective? In what ways has the internet and/or social media convinced you that you knew more about a person or situation than you actually knew?
2. How did the acquisition of knowledge figure into Satan's first temptation (Genesis 2:15 – 3:22)?
3. What is omniscience? Are there ways in which you have wrongly acted as if you had a measure of omniscience (for example, wrongly judging another person's motives)?
4. From a biblical perspective, what must be central to man's pursuit of knowledge (support your answer with Scripture)?
5. Read Colossians 1:9-14. What do Christians potentially gain by increasing in the knowledge of God? In what ways do you lack any of these fruits?
6. What specific steps will you take this week to increase your knowledge of God? How can you practically acknowledge your own lack of omniscience as you view the world?

Recommended for further reading: *Knowing God* (1993) by J.I. Packer