



Gospel of Grace  
FELLOWSHIP

## 1 John 2:3-4

### Knowing That We Know Him

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### In This We Know

**1John 2:3a (NASB)**  
By this **we know** that we **have come to know** Him. . . .

- “in this we know” and equivalents is found 10 times in 1John
- “Know” is used in two ways: cognitively and relationally
- “Have come to know” is in the perfect tense
- Knowing God relationally is addressed in Galatians 4:8, 9

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### Keeping God’s Commands

**1John 2:3b (NASB)**  
...if we keep His commandments.

- “Keep” (*te\_reo\_*) means “to perform diligently” (lit. “guard”) as in “keeping Sabbath”
- “His” could refer to God (1Jn 1:5) or Jesus (1Jn 2:1)
- “If . . . then” = If keep . . . then know
- 2Peter 3:2 – The apostles spoke Christ’s commands

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### False “gnosis” of False Teachers

**1John 2:4a (NASB)**

The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments . . .

- “The one who says” is John’s way of identifying false teachers and their teachings
- They claim “gnosis” but reject moral content
- This is the antinomian error
- Jesus is the prophet like Moses who speaks for God

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### The Claims of Gnostics Are Lies

**1John 2:4b (NASB)**

...is a liar, and the truth is not in him

- Jesus called Satan a liar (John 8:44)
- “Truth is not in him” reinforces 1John 1:8
- Antichrist lies and denies Christ (1John 2:22)
- Liars are lost (Revelation 21:8)

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### Implications and Applications

- Not knowing God is shown by wicked lives
- True knowledge of God means eternal life
- God gives believers a heart to know God
- We must love the truth

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### Not Knowing God Means Wickedness

**Hosea 4:1, 2 (HCSB)**

Hear the word of the LORD, people of Israel, for the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth, no faithful love, and **no knowledge of God** in the land! Cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery are rampant; one act of bloodshed follows another.

- True relationship with God means integrity and love
- Mental-assent-only religion is powerless to change lives

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### True Knowledge of God

**John 17:3 (NASB)**

This is eternal life, **that they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- This knowledge is relational but must encompass the cognitive as well
- Knowing God means abundant life (John 10:10) now and includes eternity

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### A Heart to Know God

**Jeremiah 24:7 (HCSB)**

**I will give them a heart to know Me**, that I am Yahweh. They will be My people, and I will be their God because they will return to Me with all their heart.

- We need God to change us from the inside
- If we do not know God we are not His
- Knowing God includes orthodox doctrine and having a relationship with Him through faith

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### We Must Love the Truth

**2Thessalonians 2:10, 11 (NKJV)**

and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because **they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved**. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should **believe the lie**.

- Satan's message is "the lie"
- Christ's message is "the truth"
- Those who reject "the truth" are put under the judgment of hardening and will believe "the lie"

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