

God Knows Everything

AG Chapter 6

Psalm 147:5

I. The Text Opened

A. "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite."
(Psa. 147:5).

1. This psalm is generally assigned to the time of the dedication of the city wall (Neh. 12:27–43), when the gate-towers had been set up, and the gates and bars put in their places (see ver. 13; and comp. Neh. 7:1–3).
 - a) It is, more manifestly than any of the others, a Return joy-song (verses 2, 12–14).
 - b) Its delicate appreciation of the grandeur and beauty of nature, and of God's closeness to nature (verses 4, 8, 9, 14, 16–18), is almost peculiar to it.
 - c) Men are summoned by the psalmist to praise God; they are told that praise is "pleasant" and "comely" (ver. 1); it is an act which is congenial and fitting, because the God they worship is one who is worthy of all the homage they can pay him; he is "greatly to be praised" (Ps. 145:3).
 - (1) *The grounds on which men are invited to bless God are very familiar, but they are very sound and strong; they can never dwell too much upon them.*
2. Ver. 5.—Great is our Lord, and of great power; or, "mighty in strength" (comp. Nah. 1:3).
 - a) His understanding is infinite.
 - b) He is at once omnipotent and omniscient.
 - c) "There is no searching of his understanding" (Isa. 40:28; see Rom. 11:33–36).
 - (1) *When men consider what must be the understanding of him who created and who sustains this marvelous framework of nature, who guides and upholds all things throughout the vast universe, every smallest thing as well as the greatest being subject to him and dependent upon him, they get some faint idea of the absolute boundlessness of the Divine knowledge and wisdom.*

II. The Doctrine from the Text

A. Doctrine: God knows all things as he knows Himself.

1. The magnitude of God's knowledge and understanding far surpasses anything men can comprehend or even begin to imagine.
 - a) For example, how much knowledge does a person think it would take to create an ocean full of sea creatures living in a self-perpetuating ecosystem out of nothing?
 - b) Or to set the tilt and rotation of the milky way relative other galaxies in space?
 - c) Or to create animate beings of all species, and all varieties of plants to sustain them, that all procreate and regenerate and replenish after their own kind?
 - d) The amount of sheer knowledge required to just put the universe in place is utterly mind-blowing!
 - (1) *Yet that's just the beginning of the knowledge of the Great God.*
2. God is Light
 - a) 'Light' is the root word of 'enlightenment,' synonymous with knowledge, understanding, awareness and wisdom.

(1) *Enlightenment is also associated with 'seeing,' which makes sense, as one can't see in the dark.*

(2) *Light is necessary for seeing, and the more light one has, the better they can see.*

b) It's not surprising, then, that Scripture refers to the all-seeing God as light (1 John 1:5), the Father of lights (James 1:17), dwelling in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16).

c) Jesus refers to Himself in the Gospels as the light of the world (John 8:12) and John in one of his letters to fellow believers encourages Christians to walk in the light as God is in the light (1 John 1:7).

(1) *When men meditate on God as light – and, in fact, perfect light – it is easier to recognize Him as the all-knowing, all-seeing God, possessing complete knowledge of Himself and all things.*

(2) *As there is no darkness in Him at all (1 John 1:5), nothing in His being or outside of His being is hidden from His understanding.*

3. God is all-knowing.

a) God knows everything ... everywhere ... right now.

b) His knowledge is therefore perfect.

c) And perfect knowledge, by default, is also comprehensive (2 Chron. 16:9).

(1) *Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. (Ps. 147:5, ESV)*

d) God knows all things directly.

e) In comparison, men know some things relatively.

f) They know the present imperfectly, the past they remember dimly, the future they do not know at all.

g) God knows all things – past, present, and future – in one total, all-encompassing sight.

(1) *Scripture says, "Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering," (Job 26:6).*

(2) *And Hebrews 4:13 says, "but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."*

(3) *All things are not only naked before the eyes and knowledge of God, but ripped open, gutted, scrutinized, and turned inside out.*

(a) *Such is the extent of His perfect vision.*

h) As the all-knowing God, He never gets a fact wrong.

(1) *He knows the cause and the result of everything, its relationship to everything else, and He forgets nothing.*

(2) *At every moment He knows everything that happened in all eternity past and all that will happen in eternity future, and everything in between.*

i) God has exhaustive knowledge of the past because He determined the past.

(1) *It was His will.*

(2) *He made it happen.*

(3) *He knows everything about the present because He is omnipresent (present everywhere), making it happen.*

(4) *And He alone knows precisely what will happen in the future to the last detail because He not only has planned it but He will cause it to happen.*

(5) *If anything at all ever happened without God's direct involvement or His permission, it would have to be independent of Him.*

(a) *And if anything at all were independent of Him, He would no longer be the absolute sovereign ruler of the universe.*

- j) Possessing perfect knowledge, God never needs to learn anything.
 - (1) *In fact, He doesn't even need to think about things.*
 - (2) *When men think about something, they think in terms of learning or knowing by moving their thoughts from one concept to another.*
 - (a) *Man's thoughts are fragmented and they have to string ideas and thoughts together to make sense of them.*
 - (b) *Not so with God.*
 - (c) *He does not move His thoughts from one thing to another, but sees all things altogether unchangeably.*
 - (d) *He sees them all and knows them all in a timeless 'now.'*
 - k) Further, God knows everything to the minutest, sub-atomic detail.
 - (1) *Nothing slips by Him.*
 - (2) *Nothing happens without Him noticing.*
 - (3) *Nothing can be hidden from Him.*
 - (a) *No wonder the Psalmist says, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it," (Ps. 139:6).*
4. God has exhaustive knowledge of every grain of sand, of every stone, plant, animal, bird, fish, and human being on earth.
- a) He knows every flower in every field – where they are, which plant dropped the seed from which it grew, and which way it will bob when the wind blows.
 - b) As a man looks up at the stars, consider that God knows everything about every star, planet, and comet; when it was created and when it will cease to exist.
 - (1) *He knows what is in the darkness.*
 - (2) *Men marvel at astronomers using telescopes, astronauts walking on the moon, and rovers landing on planets.*
 - (3) *But all these accomplishments are insignificant at best, when the infinite light of God's knowledge shines on them.*
5. God Knows Everyone
- a) God knows every man and woman that ever was, or shall be (Ps. 139:15-16).
 - b) He knows all the ways and works of everyone, even before they are born (Job 31:15-18).
 - c) Every word, every syllable that the tongue of every person ever mutters or whispers, God knows it (Psalm 139:4).
 - d) He knows not only their ways and words, but He also knows their thoughts before they ever occur, as well as at that instant, while they are thinking, speaking, and doing these things.
 - (1) *And when long forgotten by them, they are still present in the knowledge of God (Amos 8:7).*
 - e) It is a very sobering fact that nothing can be concealed from God.
 - (1) *All things are known to Him and laid open before His eyes.*
 - (2) *Everything is examined in the penetrating light of God's omniscience.*
 - (3) *Things of least significance are known to Him.*
 - (4) *The most hidden secrets and ways of the human heart are no secret to Him.*
 - (5) *Wickedness and sin are an open book to Him.*
 - (6) *God knows absolutely everything about all people for all time.*
6. Nothing is Hidden from God
- a) God is invisible to men, but they are not invisible to Him.
 - b) They are shockingly transparent, and exceedingly vulnerable.
 - c) They cannot hide in the dark of night or behind closed doors.

- d) Any attempt men make to hide from God looks as pathetic as Adam and Eve trying to hide their shame and nakedness behind leaves from a tree.
- e) No human saw Cain murder his brother.
 - (1) *But God witnessed everything.*
- f) Sarah laughed out loud at the thought of having a baby at ninety years old and felt safe in the privacy of her tent, but the Lord heard her.
- g) David went to great lengths to hide his sins with Bathsheba and Uriah, but the all-seeing God commissioned one of His servants to say to him, "You are the man!"
- h) And to each and every person, the Lord says, "Be sure your sin will find you out."
 - (1) *In man's proud, sinful nature, they don't want anyone to witness their every act, especially their sinful ones.*
 - (2) *They don't want anyone to search their hearts or judge their actions.*
 - (a) *So, they try to ignore the fact that God knows.*
 - (i) ***But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. (Hosea 7:2, ESV)***

7. God's All-Knowing Justice

- a) Judgment day is coming when God's omniscience will be displayed to everyone and He will bring to light all their sins, however secretly contrived and committed.
- b) Sins of thought, word, or deed, sins against the Law of God, sins against the gospel of God, sins of omission and sins of commission, sins of ignorance and sins of knowledge, open sins and secret sins, and the sins men love most.
 - (1) *They will all be brought into the light.*
- c) What a dreadful reckoning sinners will face on that day, for God will be a judge and a swift witness according to truth.
 - (1) *His all-knowing judgment should fill the unbeliever's heart with terror.*
 - (2) *Scripture says when that day arrives, the desire to hide will be immense.*
 - (a) *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (Rev. 6:16-17)*
 - (3) *God's judgment will be perfect because He is perfectly acquainted with every detail in the life of every being in heaven, in earth, and in hell.*
 - (a) *"No creature is hidden from His sight; all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account," (Heb. 4:13, ESV).*
 - (b) *This truth should cause men to run to Him in repentance, believing and trusting in Him for salvation through His Christ.*

III. The Text Applied

A. What is Your Response to God's Omniscience?

- 1. In light of the fact that God knows us inside out, Christians should be overcome with gratitude for His wondrous grace and mercy.
 - a) We are sinners. Period.
 - b) And as such, we are unworthy of anything but His wrath.
 - c) Yet in love He has adopted us as His children through faith in Christ.
 - d) When we meditate on our Lord's omniscience in the context of His glorious gospel, we should be drawn to adore and worship Him!
- 2. Pondering our Lord's omniscience should also cause us to walk in obedience.
 - a) When tempted with any sin, we can say with David, "Shall not God search this out, for he knows the secrets of my heart," (Psalm 44:21).

- b) Recognizing our omniscient Lord knows all we do, as well as the motives and intents of our heart, we should be diligent in any service we render to God.
 - c) We should strive to walk with sincerity of heart before the all-seeing eye of our God.
- 3. Being omniscient, God also knows precisely what we need at every moment, and what kind of care we require in any and every situation.
 - a) In other words, God's divine providence over all aspects of our lives is orchestrated by His infinite knowledge.
 - (1) *Christ says, "your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things," (Matt. 6:32, NKJV).*
 - (2) *And "... your Father knows what you need before you ask Him," (Matt. 6:8).*
- 4. So, to the believer, God's omniscience should be a tremendous comfort.
 - a) When we have reached the end of our own knowledge and understanding and are confused and afraid, we can say with confidence, "He knows the way that I take."
- 5. In our quiet meditations with God, while pondering our weaknesses and sins, we are encouraged to cry out to our all-knowing Lord:
 - a) Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Job 23:10, ESV)
- 6. God knows us intimately – far better than we will ever know or understand ourselves.
 - a) "He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust," (Ps. 103:14).
 - b) So as one of His own, let us come before our all-seeing, all-knowing, all-caring God, asking Him to cleanse us from our sins, to help us understand ourselves better, and to grow to love Him more deeply.
 - c) And may this glorious cycle of humility culminate in us exclaiming, as Peter did, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You!" (John 21:17).