Knowing What We Do Not Know

"To know that we know what we know, and to know that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge" (Nicolaus Copernicus). Copernicus is renowned for his pursuit of knowledge among men and for suggesting theories we now know to be correct. Like Copernicus, many seek to have great knowledge, making said pursuit the focus of their lives. However, one humbling thought that some forget when pursuing knowledge is that total, absolute knowledge resides with One - God. The more we consider the knowledge of God, the more we should conclude how much we really do not know. Our knowledge fairs dramatically by comparison, thus appreciating part of Copernicus's statement above, "And to know that we do not know what we do not know."

Isaiah's declaration is accurate, to the point, and most humbling. God, inspiring Isaiah, says of Himself, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, say the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Imagine how marvelous it would be to know the wisdom that is from God.

Paul helps us understand that knowing Jesus makes it possible for us to realize the wisdom of God through Him. "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God..." (1 Corinthians 1:30). Paul told the Christians in Colosse, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all

things consist" (Colossians 1:15-17). Through Jesus we can know the wisdom and power of God.

Indeed knowledge is a good thing. We seek and obtain knowledge in many ways: from our grandparents, parents, friends, coworkers, school. Whereas this knowledge can and may prove useful for us here on the earth, we must understand that worldly wisdom does not help us when it comes to knowing God. Paul asserts, "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Initially, we can know God simply by looking around at His creation. Paul affirms that the invisible attributes of God are clearly seen in the things which He created (Romans 1:20). More importantly, we can know, understand, appreciate, and submit to God by pursuing proper knowledge of Him through His word. Through His word, God provides all that is necessary for a knowledge of Him that will lead us to a successful life of submissive obedience. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).