

Core Class: Meeting With God

Session 1

- I. Good evening and welcome to the *Meeting with God* core class.
 - A. My name is David, and if we have not met yet, I am the pastor here at Faith Fellowship....
 1. Thank you so much for being here whether in person or online!
 2. Everyone should have gotten a handout for the class when they arrived...
 - a) **SLIDE:** If your watching via Zoom, you can find that handout on our website or in the class Facebook group...
 - (1) If you have not registered for the class yet by the way on our website, please consider doing...
 - (a) Its faithfellowshipfortbend.com/coreclasses
 - (b) One of the primary ways that we'll communicate information about and notes about the class is through email...
 3. If you have any questions about anything that we go over in this class or you just want to talk...you can find my email address on the back of your handout...
 - a) Feel free to email me about anything if you have questions after you leave here tonight.
 - b) So for these core classes, I really want to make these as interactive as possible...
 - (1) These are far better when its less of me lecturing and more of us dialoguing together...
 - (a) So tonight I'm going to do some talking sure but we're also going to have some questions for us to discuss and if at any time you want to make a comment or ask a question, please do so.

- II. **SLIDE:** So here's the plan for tonight...**just the simple title of this class, *Meeting with God*, assumes at least two things: possibility and participation.**
- A. So one, the title of this class assumes that it is possible to actually meet with God.
- B. And two, that meeting with God is something that we should participate in...something that we should actually do.
1. What we are going to get into tonight will be aimed at addressing these two assumptions and showing why they are not just assumptions...
 - a) But they are actually realities upon which we should build our lives.
- C. And after we address these two things, what I'll do is that I'll give an overview of what the rest of the class will look like...
 - a) More of where we're going and some things we're going to cover in the next five weeks.
- D. **SLIDE:** So all of that rolled together basically accounts for the "What, Why and How of Meeting with God"
1. Which...ironically...is what I'm calling this first class.
 2. Now before we get into the what, why and how of meeting with God, two things I want to mention...
 - a) For those of you who took *How to Study the Bible* and *Unity in Diversity* you know the basic flow of how we do these core classes...
 - (1) We're adding another element to this class and we're going to see how it goes...
 - (2) As we're going through these 5 weeks together, I want to invite you to read a book with me...
 - (a) **SLIDE:** And what I want us to read is Jonathan Pennington's new book... it just came out...Jesus the Great Philosopher.
 - (b) It's not a long book at all...it's very readable in 5 weeks...I've actually put a reading plan into your handouts.

(3) Obviously you don't have to read this book. We're not giving grades in this class...although that would be kinda cool...but we're not doing that.

(a) This is just a book that I believe pairs very well with what we'll be talking about in this class and I think will be beneficial....

(b) Again, you don't have to but if you want to read this book, I'll be reading it and commenting on it as we go through the class.

i) It's available on that little Ma and Pa shop called Amazon if you want to pick that up...you also have a reading guide available.

3. Alright let's pray together and then we'll get into the what, why and how of meeting with God.

III. **SLIDE: So The First Assumption: Is it possible to meet with God...the "what" of this class if you would.**

A. Can we actually meet with God Himself?

1. And we should say "yes" because that's kind of the whole point of this class.

a) But before we go all in on saying "yes"...

b) I want us to consider just how big of an assumption that statement actually is.

2. **SLIDE: Let's think about this together...what does it mean to actually meet someone?**

a) Give me some answers. If your watching via Zoom, type in on the chat...

(1) Meeting someone is an act of experience, yeah?

(2) It is being introduced to someone.

(3) It is the beginning of a journey towards actually knowing someone.

(4) **Married:** Those of us who are married probably remember the first time that we met our spouse.

(a) That was the first step on the way towards getting to know the person who would be our spouse and then marrying them.

- b) Now we understand and believe that God is not a force...God is not a feeling...
God is a real person.
 - (1) Again, I don't know if we would be here this evening in this class, if we did **not** really believe that it was possible to meet with God...to actually know Him.
- 3. But, here's my question...how do we know this is possible?
 - a) Well for Christians...the answer is that God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to us.
 - (1) This is how we come to know Him.
 - (2) It is His nature to be known.
 - (3) He desires to make Himself known in the world.
 - (4) And so, He has revealed Himself to us.
 - (a) Because we are finite beings created by an infinite, all-powerful, and holy God, we cannot know God unless He reveals Himself to us.
 - (b) It is only by His initiative that we should know Him...
 - (c) And so He has shown Himself to us.
- B. **SLIDE:** So nobody freak out but we're going to interact a bit with some Presbyterian stuff for a minute.
 - 1. We're still Baptists and after this class is over we'll still be Baptists.
 - a) Priesthood of the believer...we only baptize adults...
 - b) It's COVID that has taken away our potlucks not a doctrinal shift...
 - 2. But there are items that are brothers and sisters in other denominations and traditions have that are quite useful for our spiritual formation...
 - a) Maybe a good way to think about this is like eating watermelon with seeds...
 - (1) We'll consume the deliciousness of the fruit but as for the seeds that make them who they are...eh we'll spit those out...

- b) But one of the good fruits that our Presbyterian brothers and sister offer us is what is called the Westminster Larger Catechism...
 - (1) Before you ask, no it has nothing to do with the dog show...
 - (2) But for any “The Crown” or “Downton Abbey” fans in here, it did come from Westminster Abbey.
 - (a) Basically what the Westminster Larger Catechism is is a series of questions and answers about the core of our faith.
- 3. So question number two in the Westminster Larger Catechism asks: *“How does it appear that there is a God?”*
 - a) **The Answer it gives is this:** *The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.”*

IV. **General Revelation**

- A. **SLIDE:** Psalm 19:1-2 says, **“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”**
 - 1. This is what that first part of the Westminster Catechism is talking about *“the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God.”*
 - a) He created the heavens...
 - b) He created the earth...
 - c) He created people in His image
 - (1) **SLIDE:** This is known as general revelation.
 - (2) It is “general” because it allows all men to know God generally.
 - (a) Right in the same way that the presence of a watch on the sidewalk indicates the reality of a watchmaker...

- (b) In the same way that nobody looks at a Mercedes-Benz and assumes that there was an explosion at a junkyard...
- i) General revelation helps us to observe and recognize that all of this could not have come into being without their being a Creator.
- d) **SLIDE:** The apostle Paul says in ***Romans 1:19-20***, speaking about ungodly people who suppress God's truth, **"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."**
- (1) So, we can see at least some of who God is through creation.
- (a) *Has anyone ever had this experience before; where your looking out at some view and have been so floored by the beauty of creation that it turned your attention to the wonder and majesty of God?*
- i) **Pacific:** I've found that very few things live up to the hype, but when I stood on a cliff overlooking the Pacific in Monterrey, California...
- (1) And I could hear the roar of the Pacific and see the blue that just seemed endless...
- (a) My mind did not go, *"Well that's loud."*
- (b) It went, *"Oh my goodness...how great is our God."*
- ii) **Arkansas:** My father-in-law used to call Arkansas *"God's country."*
- (1) Now he said it a bit tongue-in-cheek but what he meant was that the landscape of the piney woods of Arkansas allowed him to experience the wonder and beauty of God.

- (2) By the way this is a bit of a rabbit trail, but if you have kids or grandkids... family discipleship does not always have to be obedience...the cross... Jesus Storybook Bible...
- (a) Don't get me wrong, use those...
- (b) But this idea of general revelation...that God has revealed His beauty and His love to us through creation is a powerful discipleship tool for kids.
- (3) So Rich Mullins has that old song called, "The Color Green."
- (a) I love that song...the whole song is essentially marveling at how God created the color green.
- i) Luke and I were in the backyard the other day and he actually asked, *"Dad why is grass green sometimes and not all the time?"*
- (1) I'm like, well its this process called photosynthesis where the grass gets green because it creates chlorophyll in the spring...
- ii) He's like, *"Well why does it do that?"*
- (1) Well because God designed it to do that. Isn't that cool?
- (2) In fact bud isn't it even cooler that it's God who created green.
- (3) Like green was God's idea and we get to love green because God thought it would be a good idea for us to have green.
- (a) Isn't God amazing?
- (b) I see the wheels turning in Luke's 4 year old brain and he's like, *"Yeah God is amazing."*
- (4) Boom, family discipleship just happened...
- (a) We didn't have a worship service at home...it wasn't stuffy...it wasn't awkward...

(b) It was simply taking the beauty and wonder of general revelation in how God has revealed Himself through creation and directing my kids eyes toward it.

i) Y'all, you can do that with your kids and grandkids too...and in doing so you're discipling them.

B. So general revelation is a powerful way for us to experience God. But, here's my question...will it suffice to simply attempt to meet with God **only** through nature or on our own?

1. I mean there are a number of philosophies and religions that say just that.

a) Would we **understand all that we need to understand about God** if we decided to go out to the Hill Country every morning and sit and just soak it all in?

(1) While it might be very beautiful out there...

(2) And yes, the beauty of creation often directs us to worship...

(a) We can come to God only so well through His creation.

i) Because through creation God points us to Himself as the great Creator of the universe

ii) But He does not show us our sin or how we can be saved from our sin in this way.

iii) In order for us to know these things, God must speak specific truths to us about Himself and about ourselves.

V. ***Special Revelation***

A. **SLIDE:** This is what God does in special revelation.

1. In contrast to general revelation, special revelation does not come to all people.

a) Throughout the course of redemptive history, God reveals Himself to specific people through events, Scripture, and Jesus Christ himself.

(1) This is special revelation.

(2) Essentially it is that God acting and then explaining what He is doing to people.

2. So think about it like this...

a) If general revelation...with creation and human nature...points us to the reality that there is a God.

b) Special revelation tells us who this God is and what He has done.

(1) So let's take a very quick survey through some of the ways in which God has done this.

B. **SLIDE:** So you've got events in the ***Old Testament*** where God revealed Himself to specific people.

1. **Abraham**

a) In the Old Testament, God spoke very clearly to Abraham.

(1) He called Him with an audible voice.

(2) Told Him to go where He would lead Him.

(3) And spoke a number of promises to Abraham in regarding how God would bless him and his descendants.

2. **The Law**

a) God also spoke very directly to Moses and even gave him the law by which the people of Israel were to live before their God.

3. **The Prophets**

a) God was doing a number of things in and through Israel and the surrounding nations in the Old Testament.

b) He used the prophets to deliver specific messages from God to God's people about what He was doing.

(1) These were often messages of judgment...

(2) But they also included a number of promises of hope for God's people if they would put their trust in Him and follow Him.

(3) Many of these messages were also about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

C. **SLIDE:** You also have the **New Testament** where Jesus Himself was special revelation from God.

1. In the New Testament, God spoke to us through His son, Jesus Christ.

a) **SLIDE:** Hebrews 1:1-2 says, **“Long ago, at many times and in many ways God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”**

b) **SLIDE:** John 1:1 says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

(1) This “Word” was Jesus Christ.

(2) This wasn’t just a catchy nickname that John had for Jesus...it wasn’t some clever marketing to call Jesus “the Word.”

(a) John called Jesus the Word because it was through Jesus that God was speaking to us.

i) Right, words communicate.

ii) That is why we use them.

iii) And so, it is no accident that John calls Jesus “the Word.”

D. **SLIDE: Today**

1. But, what about today? Do we hear the audible voice of God today the way Abraham and Moses did?

a) Let me just preface this by saying this...

(1) I’ve been doing this long enough to where I’m not really that comfortable putting God in boxes that He does not put Himself in.

- (a) You hear enough stories of Muslims who live in places with no access to Christianity or missionaries having dreams about Jesus enough...you start to think something's up.
- (2) I don't know of any place in the Bible that says God will never speak audibly on earth again...
 - (a) But the Bible is very clear that God speaks to us now through Scriptures.
 - (b) Like we said...
 - i) While God spoke to His people audibly in the Old Testament and through prophets
 - ii) And through Jesus while He was living on the earth...
 - (1) Today God speaks to us through His written word, the Bible.
- 2. In fact, we know about Jesus because of the special revelation God gives us about Him through the Bible...
 - a) From the Scripture, we learn a lot about Jesus but here are four of the bigger ones...
 - (1) **SLIDE: First, Jesus was a prophet.**
 - (a) Prophets deliver God's message to humans.
 - (b) Jesus spoke with the authority that was from God.
 - i) In John 12:49-50 he says, "**For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment – what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.**"
 - (2) **SLIDE: Second, scripture shows us that Jesus is a priest.**
 - (a) What was the priest's function in OT times?
 - (b) They acted as mediator between God and His people.

(c) This is exactly what Jesus does, such that we no longer need a human priest because He serves in this capacity for us for all time.

i) Hebrews 9:11-12 says that Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come and that He entered into the holy places, the very thing that the priest was to do, **“not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”**

(3) SLIDE: Third, scripture shows us that Jesus is King.

(a) The gospel of John gives us the account of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate, questioning Jesus before Jesus would go to the cross.

(b) In John 18 we hear Pilate ask, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

i) Jesus responds in John 18:36-37, **“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”** Then Pilate said to him, **“So you are a king?”** Jesus answered, **“You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”**

(1) So prophet, priest and king...if you were going to put some categories into your mind to remember...

(a) These three offices would be good ones...

(b) Because as you continue to study Scripture you’ll begin see these categories bubbling up everywhere...

(4) SLIDE: But one last category we see through special revelation: we learn from scripture that Jesus is God.

- (a) Remember John 1:1, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**”
- (b) Colossians 1:15 says that Jesus “**is the image of the invisible God.**”
- (c) In John 10:30, Jesus Himself says, “**I and the Father are one.**”
 - i) These are the claims that CS Lewis couldn’t get around in *Mere Christianity*.
 - ii) Lewis was almost fanatical about saying that if you take the Bible for what its saying...
 - (1) You can’t simply call Jesus a great moral teacher...
 - (2) Because no one who was a great moral teacher would go around saying these things that Jesus said:
 - (a) **SLIDE:** So Lewis would say it like this: *A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.*

E. So Scripture gives us all this amazing special revelation about who Jesus is and what He has done as prophet, priest, king, and God Himself...but Scripture also tells us something very clearly about ourselves...**namely that we are sinners** (think of Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:1).

1. It is our sin that keeps us from meeting with God.
 - a) And sin is not just something that we do...rather its a condition of who we are...
and we cannot simply restore this broken relationship with God.
 - (1) So think of it like this:
 - (a) Before sin entered the world and broke everything, Adam and Eve were able to meet with God in unbroken, full friendship.
 - (b) But when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God banished them from His presence...
 - i) This is what happens when we sin.
 - ii) God must reach out and remove this banishment if we are to meet with Him.
 - (2) And its the special revelation of the New Testament that tells us how he does it...
 - (a) **SLIDE:** 1 John 1:9 explicitly says that **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**
 - (b) **SLIDE:** Hebrews 4:16 also tells us that because we have a great high priest whose name is Jesus we can, with confidence, **“draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”**
 - i) Let this verse be emblazoned on this class and on our hearts and lives.
 - ii) We can draw near to God.
 - (1) We can have confidence that we can meet with Him because Christ is a great high priest who stands in our place for us.

(c) **SLIDE:** Listen to this and write it down and circle it and underline...prick your finger and write it in blood if you have to: **Meeting with God always comes through a mediator.**

i) This is what differentiates Biblical spirituality from the more mystical traditions of Christianity.

(1) We do not meet with God through a priest...

(2) We do not meet with God through some kind of ethereal connection that is distinct from Jesus.

(a) If we are to meet with God, we must meet with Him through a mediator and that mediator is Christ.

2. So, based on all of this scripture and all of what learn about Jesus and our relationship to God through the special revelation of scripture...our assumption that we can meet with God is not unfounded.

a) It is simply a matter of taking God at His word.

b) **SLIDE: Question: So, if a friend asked you if you thought someone could actually meet or commune with God, what would you tell them? How would you explain what we have just talked about to them?**

VI. The Second Assumption that we said earlier was that idea of participation:

A. Just because we can meet with God, does that mean that we should? And if so, why should we?

1. I'm not trying to be flippant here...

a) Seriously, I've heard some people say that we should only go to God when we have a big question and we need an answer...its this idea that they don't want to bother God with little stuff.

b) Or maybe we should only read the Bible when there is something we don't totally understand, like the end times maybe.

- (1) Or, we should only pray to God when there is something we need, like a new job.
- (2) But, this is not the way that the King of creation, the God who made us and who has provided a way to meet with Him...would have us thinking when it comes to meeting with Him.

B. I'm going to give you three reasons why we should meet with God....we're going to fly through them so hang on.

1. **SLIDE: First, we meet with God because He loves us.**

a) Simple...

- (1) He has created the world, yes.
- (2) He has created us, yes
- (3) But He loves us beyond what we deserve.

b) Listen, this is where we must begin...

- (1) We're going to be talking about quiet times and spiritual disciplines in this class...
 - (a) For some of you, that's a fixture in your lives...
 - (b) But for some of you, like me, you've got a pretty guilt-ridden, checkered past with that stuff.
 - i) Because maybe you grew up in a church where you were rightly told that reading the Bible and praying were good things you should do...
 - ii) The only problem is that when you inevitably go through long periods of time when you don't read your Bible and you don't pray...
 - iii) ...what happens is a ton of guilt starts to build up and instead of functioning as life-giving, Bible reading and prayer turns into something of an exercise regime that is blood-sucking.

- (2) And listen I think the reason that this so often happens is because you start from a position of “I have to love God” instead of “God inexplicably loves me.”
- c) Meeting with God must start with resting in the reality that God deeply loves you...
- (1) And if I’m honest its hard to even try to tackle describing it in a class like this.
- (a) The love of God is something that preachers and poets have been trying to put words to for centuries, but just always seem to come up short...
- i) Its almost like the best way to explain what the love of God is like is to start by saying, *“This explanation doesn’t even come close to describing it...”*
- (2) In fact, Charles Spurgeon, a guy who certainly has a place on the Mt. Rushmore of all-time preachers, said that if there were one subject that he could always talk about but felt utterly incapable of explaining was the love of God.
- (a) **SLIDE:** He said, *“The love of God makes me shrink back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in (all of) heaven itself.”*
- (3) If you remember the old hymn...*The Love of God is Greater*
- (a) And the third verse that nobody sings I know, but the third verses are always the best verses in hymns...
- (b) It goes:
- Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,*

*To write the love of God above,
 Would drain the ocean dry,
 Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
 Though stretched from sky to sky*

- d) **SLIDE:** King David, definitely was a man who met with God...he wrote in Psalm 103:11: **For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his**

love for those who fear him.

(1) Now think about that for second...

(a) Spurgeon is shrinking back in shame...

(b) The hymn writer is saying that if all the oceans were ink and all the sky were paper, we still wouldn't have enough writing material...

i) But hey at least King David, through special revelation, is putting some measurements on it...

(2) But how do you measure how high the heavens are?

(a) You can't exactly pull out a tape measure for this sort of the thing.

(b) But we've got some numbers at least...science has provided us with a little bit of measurement for how high the heavens are.

i) But when you hear them, at least to me, it only makes the preachers and poets point even stronger.

ii) **SLIDE:** I mean to get to the edge of our galaxy, the good ol' Milky Way...if you traveled at the speed of light, it would take 100,000 years!

(1) Light travels at 186,282.2 miles per second...

(a) Which if you want a reference, in the time it takes me to snap my fingers, light circumnavigates the globe six times.

- (2) The Millennium Falcon may do the Kessel Run in 12 parsecs but it takes 100,000 years for light to get from one edge of the galaxy to the other.
- (3) Oh and astronomers believe there's like 80 billion or so of these galaxies in our universe...so many in fact that they estimate that it would take light 15.5 billion years to cross
 - (a) And this is the analogy that God Himself uses to measure His love for you in His Word.
 - (b) So the biggest of "why's" for meeting with God is His love for us.

2. SLIDE: Second, meeting with God also helps us grow in spiritual maturity.

- a) We are not meant to live in spiritual stagnation....God intends for us to grow.
 - (1) JC Ryle said it like this in his book, *Holiness: "Private religion must receive our first attention, if we wish our souls to grow...intimately and inseparably connected with the whole question of sanctification, it is a leading mark of true saints that they grow."*
 - (a) Why does he put so much significance on growing by meeting with God personally?
 - i) Because he knows that we are like trees planted in the ground and without the nourishment of meeting with God we will be stuck in our sins and we won't grow.

3. SLIDE: Third, and finally, meeting with God helps us fight.

- a) Jesus says in Matthew 10:22 that those who persevere to the end will be saved.
 - (1) So, we have this call to persevere in the midst of a world of sin and tragedy and hardship and heaviness.
 - (a) And how are we going to do it?
 - (b) By going to God daily so that we can fight this fight.

- (c) What I want you to see through this class tonight and through the remainder of the lessons is that we will not persevere to the end if we do not meet with God in His word and in prayer regularly.
- i) **SLIDE:** Jesus prays to the Father in John 17:17, “**Sanctify them in truth; your word is truth.**”
- (1) Our sanctification is contingent upon God’s very words.
- ii) **SLIDE:** Again, Ephesians 6:17-18 uses war language when Paul writes “**and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...**”
- (1) It is through the word of God and prayer that keeps you alert with all perseverance Paul says.
- (2) They are the tools God has given us to fight to endure to the end.

VII. **SLIDE:** How do we Meet with God?

- A. So, we have gone over the Biblical foundations of meeting with God and seen that we not only can meet with God but also that we should meet with God
1. We have hit on this next question a bit already in the last section, **but how do we meet with God?**
- a) If we are able to do so and we should do so, how do we do it?
- B. This is what will set up the rest of our class...I’m going to fly through these four without much explanation because this is what we’ll be getting into the next 4 weeks.
1. **SLIDE:** First, and most importantly, we must meet with God through Jesus Christ, our mediator, by faith.
- a) Remember Hebrews 4:16...meeting with God always comes through a Mediator.
- (1) We draw near to God by faith in the finished work of Jesus.

- (2) We go to God by faith in His Son, having confidence that through Him, as our perfect substitution, we can have access to God even though we are sinners.

2. SLIDE: We meet with God through Scripture.

- a) But, what do we mean by scripture, the Bible, the written Word of God.
 - (1) It is a collection of 66 books that together tell the story of God and his relationship with man and the world.
 - (2) It is inspired by God, fully authoritative in its entirety, inerrant and trustworthy.
- b) And we'll get into this but a large part of meeting with God through scripture involves meditation and self-examination.
 - (1) It does no good to simply read and not try to process what you read.
 - (2) This is why the Psalmist says in Psalm 119, "I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
 - (3) And later, "I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."
 - (a) Getting into the word involves pouring over it, thinking about what you've read and how it applies to your life.

3. SLIDE: Third, we meet with God through prayer.

- a) Prayer is crucial.
 - (1) It is no coincidence that the verse we read earlier, Ephesians 6:17-18 says,

"...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit..."
 - (2) In prayer, God hears and answers our requests to both know Him more and to make Him known.

- (a) We'll talk about a number of aspects surrounding prayer in a few weeks, but for now, suffice it to say that we should go to God in prayer that we might know Him more.

4. SLIDE: Lastly, we meet with God by coming together with the people of God.

- a) It is important to note that God meets with His people when they come together in worship.

- (1) We will also talk a bit more about this next week when we discuss the importance of hearing the Word of God preached.

C. So let's wrap this up and put a bow on it:

- 1. This is how we meet with God: We meet with God by faith in Jesus, in scripture, in prayer and through the people of God.
- 2. **SLIDE:** I want to leave you finally with a working definition of meeting with God that we'll come back to throughout the class: It is ***“daily time that we set aside for fellowship with God in His Word, in prayer and through the church so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to God’s perspective.”***

- a) So...to bring things full circle...

- (1) It is possible to meet with God.
- (2) It is something that we should participate in.
- (3) And thankfully Good has given us a plan for how to do it.
 - (a) Let's do it this week.

(b) Pennington reading guide.

- (c) Let's pray.