

1. We are going to continue this morning with our series about **Knowing God.**
2. The bible passage we are using for this study is found in Matthew chapter 11, vs. 25-30.
3. Just as a side note. From time to time, I have people ask me if my notes from a particular message are available. And the answer is yes.
4. If you go to our website, batesvillefirst.org. click on the media tab.
5. Right above the livestream video for each week is the title of the message for that day. If you click on the title, it will take you directly to my notes for that message.
6. Most of the time those notes are almost word for word what I preached that day.
7. Please, if those notes are a blessing to you, or if you think they would be a blessing to someone else, use them.
8. So, if we look back at Matthew chapter 11, there is a familiar passage contained in verses 28-30. Jesus is speaking and he says...
9. **Matthew 11:28-30** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
10. While the subject of rest surely is focused on in these 3 verses, we find that the idea of rest is a part of a broader theme, and that theme is knowing God.
11. **Matthew 11:25-26** At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do."
12. In week one we identified a spiritual position that will hinder our knowing God more fully, and that position is being wise or learned (in our own eyes).
13. We said one of the identifiers of being wise and learned in our own eyes is an unwillingness to listen.
14. To live in such a way that we give the impression that we have it all together, and therefore don't need anyone else's help, maybe not even God.
15. Sometimes unhealthy pride can cause us to take that attitude, and at other times It can be fear, fear of being known, fear of people, and

even God knowing the real us, that causes us to live as though we are wise and learned in our own eyes.

16. So, if being wise and learned in our own eyes can hinder our knowing God, what can help us to know God more fully?
17. When we approach God with a child like faith. Jesus said you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children.
18. Last week we looked at one particular characteristic of childlike faith and that is the willingness to ask God questions.
19. God is not afraid, offended, put off, or bothered by our asking him to explain himself, even when those questions are out of the depths of every emotion you can imagine.
20. We said that king David in the book of Psalms asks God 51 different questions and here are some examples.
 - How long oh Lord. Will you forget me forever?
 - How long will you hide your face from me?
 - How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and everyday have sorrow in my heart?
 - How long will my enemy triumph over me?
 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
21. David questioned God out of the depths of sorrow and pain and heartache.
22. And he didn't sugar coat his questions. He questioned God with raw and unfiltered emotion.
23. And God was not put off by David's questions because this same David is called by God himself a man after God's own heart.
24. So, God is not bothered by your questioning him.
25. God is not bothered by your struggle to understand him or his ways.
26. God invites you to come close to him.
27. **Hebrews 4:16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
28. The Lord invites us to come to him with confidence. Another translation says to approach him with boldness.
29. So that we can receive mercy (compassion, kindness, forgiveness), and find grace (blessing) in our time of need.

30. And when we approach God that way, we will begin to know him more intimately.

31. And when we begin to know him more intimately, we will find out some amazing things about him and who he is.

TEXT: **Matthew 11:27** "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

TITLE: **In Christ.**

INTRO: **Put the scripture back up.**

1. So, Jesus here makes a couple of statements that we see in multiple places in the New Testament.
2. No one knows the Son except the father, and know one knows the Father except the son.
3. So, to know Jesus is to know God.
4. But it is not just the Son knowing the Father and the Father knowing the son. There is another group of people who are invited to know God the Father and God the Son. And that is those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him (God).
5. And who does Jesus the Son choose to reveal the father to?
6. According to verse 28, all or everyone. Come unto me all who are weary.
7. Who will approach the Son, according to verse 25, with a childlike faith.
8. So. Only the Son knows the Father. And only the Father knows the son. Except that God invites us to join in and participate in this wonderful, beautiful relationship.
9. And it is through the invitation to join this relationship that we get to know God.
10. How do we get to know God? We get to know God as we get to know Jesus. Because when we know one, we know the other.
11. So, when we, through reading God's word, seek to know Jesus more intimately, we also get to know the Father more intimately.
12. When we, through prayer, seek to know Jesus more intimately, we also get to know the Father more intimately.

13. When we, through obedience and living a life of righteousness (doing what is right), seek to know Jesus more intimately, we also get to know the father more intimately.
14. I hope and pray that we will not miss how much that elevates our position in Jesus Christ.
15. You and I are sinners. Fallible. Faulty. Failing. Fickle. And yet the God of all the universe invites us to draw close to him.
16. So, through our faith in Jesus Christ, God picks us up out of our wallowing state, and he invites us into this beautiful relationship with him and the Son.
17. And in the context of that beautiful relationship with him, he invites us to know him.
18. That means, we are cherished. We are valued. We are treasured. We are prized. And we are beloved. That is a part of our identity in Christ Jesus.
19. And so, because of that truth, I challenge you to refuse to accept any falsehood about your true identity in Christ.
20. Don't believe anything about yourself, whether from others outside you, or any voices inside you, that don't line up with who God says you are.
21. In talking about rest. Not knowing who we are in Jesus Christ and yet trying to live a victorious life will wear the snot out of us.
22. And the only way we can know our true identity in Christ is to know Christ more and more intimately.
23. So, let's finish up this morning by focusing on a very powerful truth that Jesus declares about himself in the beginning of verse 27.
24. If we can grasp this truth, it will help us know Jesus more intimately, and as a result have a tremendous impact on our everyday life.
25. **Matthew 11:27** "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
26. All things have been committed to me by my father.
27. In just a moment we are going to break down what all those things are. But for the moment let's look at the significance of that statement.

28. There is another passage in the book of Matthew that gives even more insight into this statement. That passage is a part of what we call the great commission.
29. This statement is found on the walls to either side of the doors when you come into the sanctuary.
30. **Matthew 28:18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
31. Here Jesus was letting his disciples know that everything in heaven and on earth has been placed under, and must submit to, the authority of Jesus Christ.
32. Ok pastor. Everything is under the authority of Jesus Christ. What does that mean to my everyday life.
33. Well. I'm so glad you asked. The fact that everything in the heavens and earth is under the authority of Jesus means that every aspect of our everyday life is made better in Christ.
34. Let's go one step deeper to help us understand exactly what is under the authority of Jesus Christ.
35. **Colossians 1:15-17** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
36. We see again this truth that when you see the Son you see the Father. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.
37. And as the visible image of God, Jesus is the firstborn over all creation.
38. What does it mean that he is the firstborn over all creation? In Jesus, all things were created.
39. And in Jesus all things are held together.
40. When we get together next time, we are going to talk about finding rest for our souls. Rest for our souls is much deeper than just finding rest for your mind or your body.
41. Rest for your soul is a deep, abiding, continual rest.
42. So, let me give you one of the foundation stones necessary to find rest for your soul.
43. The more we set our hearts on knowing God.

44. The more intimately and deeply we allow him to know us and us to know him, there is a truth that starts to get cemented in our hearts, and that truth is this.
45. **In Jesus Christ, this world is not random.** The things of this world are not random.
46. The people and the happenings of this world are not random.
47. My life is not random. The things going on in my life are not random.
48. As we get to know Jesus, we realize that everything was created for Jesus. Everything that has been created was created through Jesus.
49. And in Jesus all things are held together. And that truth provides for us this supernatural hope that we can't find anywhere else.
50. You say but hold on pastor. If everything that was created was created through him and for him, and if everything is being held together by him, what does that say about who God really is.
51. Because I have a bunch of things going on in my life right now that are terrible and difficult and hard and overwhelming.
52. I can name a whole list of stuff about my life that I don't like very much. What does that say about who God is?
53. Well, in order to understand what that says about who God is, we have to see the things of this world as they really are.
54. How do we do that? We do that by looking at how God created this world and everything and everyone in it, and how differently this present world is compared to what God created.
55. Jesus is the firstborn of all creation. For him, all things were created. All things have been created through him. And all things are held together by him.
56. All of those truths speak to the goodness of who God is.
57. If you go all the way back to Genesis chapter one, you will find the truth about what God created.
58. **Genesis 1:31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.
59. Everything that God created was good and for our good.

60. That truth is further seen in **James 1:16-17** Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
61. What God created was good because the God who created it is good.
62. But the reason it is not so good now has to do with the consequences of sin.
63. In Genesis chapter 3 it describes the fall of mankind in the garden. Adam and Eve sinned against God, and the result of their sin was that mankind was required to endure painful life in painful world.
64. **Genesis 3:17-19** To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. **18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."
65. So, when God created it, it was good.
66. Because of the sin of all mankind, this good world and this good life was marred and messed up.
67. But. The fall of man doesn't change the truth that Jesus declared in Matthew 11, or chapter 28, or in Colossians chapter 1.
68. Everything has been committed to Jesus by the father.
69. The father has given Jesus authority over all things.
70. And through Jesus, this world is held together, and it will not fly off the rails, because Jesus is still good.

Conclusion:

1. There is a saying that is fairly common. Falling apart at the seams.
2. It has several different meanings.
3. To be approaching failure.
4. To become emotional with sadness or grief.
5. To begin to fail or collapse.
6. To break into pieces.
7. I must confess, sometimes it feels like things in life. Many things in life. Maybe even your life itself is falling apart at the seams.
8. Sometimes it looks as if everything is falling apart at the seams.

9. Sometimes fear causes us to worry that everything will fall apart at the seams.
10. I won't even attempt to deny the reality of those feelings.
11. But what I do want to leave you with today is the truth from the word of God.
12. Because despite how things feel, look, seem, might be or could be falling apart at the seams. According to scripture it is in fact not falling apart at the seams.
13. Because we are reminded of the truth in **Colossians 1:17** *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*
14. What things are held together?
- Things in heaven. Eternity, heaven, loved ones who have gone on before, what awaits you in the future, it is all being held together by Jesus Christ.
 - Things on earth. Visible things. Things that look scary or impossible. Things that are invisible. I can't see it. It doesn't make sense. Thrones, powers, rulers, or authorities. In other words, all of the forces of this world.
 - Every government, every economy, every country, every continent, global warming, recession, shortage of this and lack of that. It is all being held together by Jesus Christ.
15. That means that in Christ you are safe and secure, protected and not rejected.
16. And Jesus Christ is before all things.
17. Before there was a heaven or an earth. He was.
18. Before anything that can be seen could be seen. He was.
19. Before governments and economies and dangers and disasters ever thought about being, he was.
20. And when it is all gone, he still will be.
21. There is a really great song out by a guy by the name of Tauren Wells.
22. The title is: There will be Joy in the morning. This part of the song really blessed me this week.

Giving in to your feelings is like drowning in the shadows
 Oh, you gotta keep believing
 Even in the middle of the unknown

'Cause grace will be there
 When you come to the end of your rope and you let go
 It may feel like you're goin' down now
 But the story isn't over

There will be joy in the morning
 If it's not good, then He's not done
 No, He's not done with it yet
 There will be joy in the morning

23. How can there be joy in the morning? Because he's still holding it all together. He always has and he always will.
24. Pray.
25. This morning we are going to do something a little different.
26. I am not going to lead you in praying that your circumstances will change.
27. Instead, I am going to lead you in speaking truth over your circumstances.
28. Can we give the Lord praise because we believe he is holding everything together?
29. Lord, in spite of how _____ looks. I believe you are holding it all together.
30. Lord, in spite of how _____ feels. I believe you are holding it all together.
31. Lord, in spite of how hopeless the circumstances seem. I believe you are holding it all together.