

“What Do You Know?”

Romans 8:28

What can you say with absolute certainty and total peace that you ***KNOW*** about *your* God?

And we know

“**And/For**” = ***conjunction*** that ties together what follows with what precedes...

“**We**” represents ***an inclusive, specific audience...***

WE: Defined by IMMEDIATE CONTEXT:

See Romans 8:18: “our present suffering” & “our future glory”

See Romans 8:19: “sons of God”

See Romans 8:21: “children of God”

See Romans 8:23: “those who have the first fruits of the Spirit”

See Romans 8:23: “those who groan inwardly”

See Romans 8:24: “we (who) were saved in hope”

See Romans 8:25: “we (who) persevere in hope”

See Romans 8:26: “(those whom) the Spirit helps in weakness”

See Romans 8:26: “the Spirit intercedes for us”

See Romans 8:27: “saints” as well as “(those) in accord with God’s will”

WE: Defined by BIBLICAL BROTHER/SISTERHOOD:

- Able... right-hearted worship... killed out of religious hypocrisy & hatred
- Abraham... “Yes Lord” to God’s open ended, challenging call to follow
- Noah... Joseph... Esther... Moses... David... Samuel... Ruth... Elijah... Elisha... Jeremiah... Ezekiel... Rahab... John-the-Baptist... Peter... John... Matthew... Stephen... Lazarus... Mary... Healed Leper... Healed woman that touched Jesus... Blind man of John 9.....

“**know**” represents ***an absolute certainty in the head AND the heart....***

WHAT DO YOU REALLY KNOW IN THIS LIFE?

What do you REALLY, REALLY KNOW....?

NOTE: It is impossible to “know” anything without TRUTH.

“Absolute Truth is a prerequisite to knowing anything absolutely.”

Romans 8:28 is one of the absolute truths that defines life!

Exodus 6:7... "you will know that I am God"
Exodus 33:13... "teach me your ways so that I will know you"
1 Samuel 17:46... "the whole world will know there is a God in Israel"
Psalms 9:10... "those who know your name will trust..."
Psalms 46:10... "be still and know that I am God"
Ezekiel 6:10... "they will know that I am the Lord"
John 3:11... "we speak of what we know"
John 8:32... "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"
John 10:14... "I know My sheep and My sheep know me"
John 13:17... "now that you know these things"
John 13:35... "by this all men will know that you are My disciples"
1 Corinthians 2:2... "I resolved to know nothing else ... but Christ crucified"
Philippians 3:10... "I want to know Christ & the power of His resurrection"
2 Thessalonians 1:8... "He will punish those who do not know/obey God"
2 Timothy 2:19... "the Lord knows those who are His"
1 John 2:5... "This is how we know that we are in Him"
1 John 3:1... "if they do not know us it is because they did not know Him"
1 John 3:10... "this is how we know who the children of God are"
1 John 3:16... "this is how we know what love is"
1 John 3:24... "we know by the Spirit He gave us"
1 John 4:8... "whoever does not love, does not know God"
1 John 5:13... "I write this... that you may know you have eternal life"
1 John 5:18... "we know that anyone born of God does not continue in sin"

that in ALL things

"all" means "ALL" – any exception(s) would, by definition, change God's Word

Creation.... offered humanity the opportunity to KNOW God forever...
 The Fall.... created opportunity to trust Jesus in salvation, & glorification
 The Flood.. demonstrated God's power & commitment to holiness
 Joseph..... revealed God's sovereignty in the midst of sinful complexity
 Israel..... proved God's relational promises (to include loving discipline)
 David/Paul highlight the uniqueness of God's mercy, grace, & calling
 Philip..... shows that God's calling can and does change at times...
 Martha..... sometimes "doing" good is doing bad, if the good is not God
 Silas..... joining Paul led to torture & imprisonment in Philippi...
 Staying.... Paul/Silas not leaving thru open prison doors = salvation...
 Judas..... to demonstrate the heart & the
 Ananias.... reminds us that God's call will often take us into real danger

2 Timothy 3:16... *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..."*

God

Do you know a small "g" god... or the One, true **capital "G" God**?

Genesis 1:1... *"In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth..."*

If we stop here... listen to what we have:

"we know that in all things God"

a.k.a. "We know that God is in all things..." --- AMEN!

works

Psalms 19:1 = *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Psalms 66:5 = *Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.*

Genesis 2:2 = *By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*

Philippians 1:6 = For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus

Sampling of God's "works"

Creation... (kinda says it all doesn't it?)

Daniel in the lion's den...

Shadrach, Mieshach, & Abendigo in the furnace...

Paul & Silas in the Philippi jail...

Peter in the boat...

The Centurion faithfully asking for Jesus to heal his loved one...

Stephen dying a martyrs death...

September 11, 2001...

The heart-wrenching tragedies plaguing people all over the globe...

Your worst and most trying problem of this year/month/week/day...

God is at work in every second of every minute of every day

GOD IS SOVEREIGN.... PERIOD!

for the good

How do **you** define "the good life?" Is good defined by the creation or Creator?

GOD IS AND DOES GOOD:

1 Chronicles 16:34 = Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 119:65-72 = *Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD. **66 Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands. 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. 68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. 69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. 70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. 71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. 72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.***

THE GOODNESS OF GOD IS EXPERIENCED:

In God's Creative Work (Genesis 1:31)

In God's Saving Acts:

1. Liberation of Israel from Egypt (Exodus 18:9)
2. Return of the remnant from captivity (Ezra 7:9)
3. Personal deliverance (Psalms 34:8)
4. Salvation (Philippians 1:6)

God's Goodness Extends to...

1. God's name (Psalms 52:9)
2. God's promises (Joshua 21:45)
3. God's commands (Psalms 119:39 & Romans 7:12)
4. God's gifts (James 1:17)
5. God's providential shaping of events (Genesis 50:20)

GOD ALONE IS TRULY GOOD...

Psalms 14:1-3 = *The fool says in his heart. "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.*

Mark 10:18 = *"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.*

SAVED TO JOIN GOD IN DOING GOOD...

Ephesians 2:10 = *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Colossians 1:9-14 = *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. **10** And we pray this in order that you **may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work**, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

of those (NOT a universal, but **a particular promise for a particular people**)

who love ("agape") him,

John 14:21 = *"He who has My commandments & keeps them...loves Me"*

John 13:34-35 = *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Read: **John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20, 5:22; & 1 John 4:8-10**

(and those) who have been called

"CALLED" = Definition is a DIVINE SUMMONS

Romans 1:1... " _____, a slave of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle
(a.k.a. "sent one"), set apart for the gospel of God.

Read: **Romans 1:6-7; 11:29; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:15;
Ephesians 2:4, 4:4; Jude 1:1;**

Luke 4:42-44 = *When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. **43** But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."*

1 Timothy 6:12 = *Fight the good fight of faith; **take hold** of the eternal life **to which you were called...***

To have heard the gospel... is to have been called!

1 Peter 2:9= *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

1 Peter 5:10 = *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

according to his purpose.

This is where we see God separate the "religious" from the relational...

Matthew 22:1-14

Parable of the Marriage Feast

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, **2** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. **3** And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. **4** Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.'" **5** But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, **6** and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. **7** But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. **8** Then he *said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. **9** Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.' **10** Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. **11** "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, **12** and he *said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. **13** Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **14** For many are called, but few are chosen."

Luke 14:23-24 = And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. **24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited/called shall taste of my dinner.**"

T-Shirt: "**I am glad you come to church...I wish you would come to Me.**" - God

REVELATION 17:14 = These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and **those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.**"

God has a plan...God has a good plan...**God has a God plan that is always good!**

***** False gospels can bring an amazing, "unbelievable" level of hatred... but unbelievable expressions of love can only come from KNOWING, AND TRUSTING CHRIST & CHRIST-LIKENESS!**

Unless and until you KNOW that God loves you, you will live, what Henry David Thoreau described as a "life of quiet desperation."

Moreover, unless and/or until you KNOW that YOU LOVE (I mean really... BIBLICALLY... LOVE God --- evidenced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Whose fruit includes [but is far from limited to] joyful obedience and transformational trust), you ought to be scared to death, completely unsettled, and desperately crying out to God to give you the want-to to worship, the want-to to repent, the want-to to live in faithful obedience..... the want-to to surrender to and captured by God's eternal, life-giving grace.

Closing:

1 Corinthians 1:20-31 = *Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.*

26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Do you KNOW that God is Sovereign in & over ALL things?

Do you personally KNOW the One true God in a blessed slave/Master way?

Do you KNOW that God is "good" and holy and righteous – ALL the time?

Do you KNOW that God's eternal blessing is gifted to...

"all who love Him and are called according to His purpose.?"

Do you KNOW that God's wrath and eternal damnation await everyone else?

Let's pray.