



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



Steps To Christ

By Ellen G. White

Chapter 10 A Knowledge of God

Memory Verse – Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin.”

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. What should the Christian glory in?

Jeremiah 9:24 (NKJV). “But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.”

Scriptures

2. How do people learn about God?

Matthew 11:27 (NKJV). “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

Scriptures

3. Who did Philip want Jesus to reveal?

John 14:8, 9 (NKJV). “⁸ Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’

⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”?’”

Scriptures

4. What do God's created works reveal?

Psalm 19:1 (NKJV). “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Scriptures

5. What reaction do those have who can see God?

Revelation 4:10, 11 (NKJV). “¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹ You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

Scriptures

6. Where do we begin?

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV). “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.”

Scriptures

7. How can we understand the invisible things of God?

Romans 1:20 (NKJV). “For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”

Scriptures

8. What happens to those who see these things but refuse to accept them?

Romans 1:22-25 (NKJV). “²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

“²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Scriptures

9. What description is given of Jesus?

Colossians 2:9 (NKJV). “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”

Scriptures

10. Where can one find eternal life?

John 17:3 (NKJV). “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Scriptures

11. What knowledge did the Apostle Paul value most of all?

Philippians 3:8 (NKJV). “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ”

Scriptures

12. What do those who know God receive?

Job 22:21 (NKJV). “Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you.”

Scriptures

13. How are some people in the last days described?

2 Timothy 3:7 (NKJV). “Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Scriptures

14. What principle insures that we will gain a knowledge of the truth?

John 7:17 (NKJV). “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.”

Study Questions

Study Questions

1. What is God seeking to do? (Paragraph 1).

“Many are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and bring us into communion with Him.”

Study Questions

2. With what did Jesus link the words of truth? (2).

“Our Saviour bound up His precious lessons with the things of nature.”

Study Questions

3. What beauty does God love most? (3).

“He is a lover of the beautiful, and above all that is outwardly attractive He loves beauty of character; .
”
. .

Study Questions

4. What would Jesus have us cultivate in our character? (3).

“ . . . He would have us cultivate purity and simplicity, the quiet graces of the flowers.”

Study Questions

5. What lessons do God's created works teach us?
(4).

“If we will but listen, God's created works will teach us precious lessons of obedience and trust.”

Study Questions

6. What can be dismissed if we trust God? (5).

“And God cares for everything and sustains everything that He has created. . . . If we would but fully believe this, all undue anxieties would be dismissed.”

Study Questions

7. Who enjoys the beauty of the earth with the highest appreciation? (7).

“The poet and the naturalist have many things to say about nature, but it is the Christian who enjoys the beauty of the earth with the highest appreciation, because he recognizes his Father’s handiwork and perceives His love in flower and shrub and tree.”

Study Questions

8. What other means does God use to speak to us?
(8, 9).

“God speaks to us through His providential workings and through the influence of His Spirit upon the heart. . . . God speaks to us in His word.”

Study Questions

9. What three things does God reveal in His word? (9).

“Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption. Here is open before us the history of patriarchs and prophets and other holy men of old.”

Study Questions

10. Who does all the Bible tell of? (10).

“Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ.”

Study Questions

11. How do we become acquainted with Jesus? (10).

“If you would become acquainted with the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures.”

Study Questions

12. What gives strength to our spiritual nature? (11).

“Our bodies are built up from what we eat and drink; and as in the natural economy, so in the spiritual economy: it is what we meditate upon that will give tone and strength to our spiritual nature.”

Study Questions

13. What will be the science and song of the redeemed throughout eternity? (12).

“The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.”

Study Questions

14. What happens as we contemplate heavenly themes? (12).

“As we thus contemplate heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger, and our prayers will be more and more acceptable to God, because they will be more and more mixed with faith and love.”

Study Questions

15. What happens as we meditate upon the perfections of Christ? (13).

“As we meditate upon the perfections of the Saviour, we shall desire to be wholly transformed and renewed in the image of His purity.”

Study Questions

16. For whom was the Bible designed? (14).

“The Bible was not written for the scholar alone; on the contrary, it was designed for the common people.”

Study Questions

17. What happens if we allow others to do our thinking? (15).

“If we allow others to do our thinking, we shall have crippled energies and contracted abilities.”

Study Questions

18. What would we have if God's word were studied as it should be? (16).

“If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times.”

Study Questions

19. What are we to do with our Bible? (17).

“Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory. Even while you are walking the streets you may read a passage and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in the mind.”

Study Questions

20. How should we study the Scripture? (18).

“Scripture must be compared with scripture.
There must be careful research and prayerful
reflection.”

Study Questions

21. What should always accompany Bible study? (19).

“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.”

Study Questions

22. What is the work and office of the Holy Spirit?
(20).

“The Holy Spirit exalts and glorifies the Saviour. It is His office to present Christ, the purity of His righteousness, and the great salvation that we have through Him.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

1. How can I get to really know God, I can't see Him or hear His voice?

Thought Questions

2. How are God and Jesus alike? How are they different?

Thought Questions

3. How can I find time in my busy day to study my Bible?

Thought Questions

4. How can I tell if what happens is really God's providence?

Thought Questions

5. How can the scientists not see God in the complexity of nature?

Thought Questions

6. How does God speak through His Spirit?

Thought Questions

7. What does memorizing Scripture do for me?

Thought Questions

8. What Scriptures should I begin to memorize?

Thought Questions

9. How should a Christian meditate?

Thought Questions

10. How can I learn how to study my Bible correctly?

Thought Questions

11. What do I have to know about God to survive the last days?

Thought Questions

12. Is it wrong to study science, art, psychology, etc.?

Thought Questions

13. Why has God allowed so much knowledge to be discovered?

Thought Questions

14. Many believe a mixture of science and Bible in trying to explain creation. How can I know what is really right?

Thought Questions

15. What other books on spiritual things should I read?

Thought Questions

16. I read my Bible, but I can't make it apply to my daily life. How can I make the Bible practical?

Thought Questions

17. How can I explain God's love when so much of the natural world is filled with disease, disaster, and death?

Thought Questions

18. The Bible has so many different pictures of God. How can I make sense of them?

Thought Questions

19. [Add your questions].

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

The following person is a leader in his church. He has taught a Sabbath School class for many years, but recently he has been sharing the Scriptures in a way that raises some new and incorrect ideas about the plan of salvation and what God is like. You are worried not only for the church members who are listening, but for this person as well.

He has been a long-time member, and you don't want to push him into taking a more radical stand by aggressively challenging him, but something needs to be said or done, because he is gaining quite a following. What can be done to help him and the others see the danger of these new beliefs?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

Additional Exercises

Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

Additional Exercises

2. Additional Reading:

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 407-466. “The Essential Knowledge.”

Christian Education, pp. 98-105. “Books in Our Schools.”

Additional Exercises

3. Describe an experience where God's providence led you.

Additional Exercises

4. Describe one new thing about God you have discovered from your recent study.

Additional Exercises

5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

Additional Exercises

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Ellen G. White Quotes

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 25

“Only like can appreciate like. Unless you accept in your own life the principle of self-sacrificing love, which is the principle of His character, you cannot know God.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 26

“But to hearts that have become purified through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, all is changed. These can know God. Moses was hid in the cleft of the rock when the glory of the Lord was revealed to him; and it is when we are hid in Christ that we behold the love of God.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 109

“The angels of heaven attain unto no higher knowledge than to know the will of God, and to do His will is the highest service that can engage their powers.”

Education, p. 14

“In a knowledge of God all true knowledge and real development have their source.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 739

“Only as we contemplate the great plan of redemption can we have a just appreciation of the character of God.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 393

“The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God’s word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 354, 355

“The value of man is estimated in heaven according to the capacity of the heart to know God. This knowledge is the spring from which flows all power.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 581

“The knowledge of God’s works and ways we can only begin to obtain in this world; the study will be continued throughout eternity. God has provided for man subjects of thought which will bring into activity every faculty of the mind. We may read the character of the Creator in the heavens above and the earth beneath, filling the heart with gratitude and thanksgiving.”

Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 384

“The word of God is to stand as the highest educating book in our world, and is to be treated with reverential awe. It is our guidebook; we shall receive from it the truth. We need to present the Bible as the great lesson book to place in the hands of our children and youth, that they may know Christ, whom to know aright is life eternal.”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 448, 449

“Christ could have imparted to men knowledge that would have surpassed any previous disclosures, and put in the background every other discovery. He could have unlocked mystery after mystery, and could have concentrated around these wonderful revelations the active, earnest thought of successive generations till the close of time.

But He would not spare a moment from teaching the science of salvation. His time, His faculties, and His life were appreciated and used only as the means for working out the salvation of the souls of men. He had come to seek and to save that which was lost, and He would not be turned from His purpose. He allowed nothing to divert Him.

“Christ imparted only that knowledge which could be utilized. His instruction of the people was confined to the needs of their own condition in practical life.

The curiosity that led them to come to Him with prying questions, He did not gratify. All such questionings He made the occasion for solemn, earnest, vital appeals. To those who were so eager to pluck from the tree of knowledge, He offered the fruit of the tree of life. They found every avenue closed except the way that leads to God. Every fountain was sealed save the fountain of eternal life.”

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 475

“The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. This is the knowledge that works transformation of character. Received into the life, it will re-create the soul in the image of Christ. This is the knowledge that God invites His children to receive, beside which all else is vanity and nothingness.”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 457

“The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ expressed in character is an exaltation above everything else that is esteemed on earth or in heaven. It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This knowledge it is God’s purpose that all who put on Christ shall possess.”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 466

“Our lifework here is a preparation for the life eternal. The education begun here will not be completed in this life; it will be going forward through all eternity--ever progressing, never completed. More and more fully will be revealed the wisdom and love of God in the plan of redemption. The Saviour, as He leads His children to the fountains of living waters, will impart rich stores of knowledge.

And day by day the wonderful works of God, the evidences of His power in creating and sustaining the universe, will open before the mind in new beauty. In the light that shines from the throne, mysteries will disappear, and the soul will be filled with astonishment at the simplicity of the things that were never before comprehended.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 55

“In the judgment men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth.”

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 108, 109

“A student may go through all the grades of the schools and colleges of today. He may devote all his powers to acquiring knowledge. But unless he has a knowledge of God, unless he obeys the laws that govern his being, he will destroy himself. By wrong habits he loses his power of self-appreciation. He loses self-control. He cannot reason correctly about matters that concern him most closely.

He is reckless and irrational in his treatment of mind and body. By wrong habits he makes of himself a wreck. Happiness he cannot have; for his neglect to cultivate pure, healthful principles places him under the control of habits that ruin his peace. His years of taxing study are lost, for he has destroyed himself. He has misused his physical and mental powers, and the temple of the body is in ruins. He is ruined for this life and for the life to come.

By acquiring earthly knowledge he thought to gain a treasure, but by laying his Bible aside he sacrificed a treasure worth everything else.”

Quiz

Quiz

1. T F Many people in the last days, though ever learning, will never come to a knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:7).
2. T F Never should the bible be studied without prayer. (SC 10.19).
3. T F The beauty God loves most is the beauty of nature. (SC 10.2).

Quiz

4. T F The Scriptures were written primarily for the scholars and theologians. (SC 10.14).
5. T F The redemption theme will be the science and song of the redeemed throughout eternity. (SC 10.12).

Quiz

6. What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1 NKJV).

“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handywork.”

Quiz

7. What is life eternal? (John 17:3 NKJV).

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Quiz

8. What is a discerner of the heart? (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV).

“For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Quiz

9. What lessons do God's created works teach us?
(SC 10.4).

“If we will but listen, God's created works will teach us precious lessons of obedience and trust.”

Quiz

10. When we see Jesus, who else do we see? (John 14:9 NKJV).

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”?’”

Quiz

11. How can people really learn about God the Father? (Matthew 11:27).
- A. By searching history
 - B. Only as Jesus reveals Him
 - C. By studying all world religions
 - D. Only by listening to other Christians who study the bible

Quiz

12. There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than this. (SC 10.16).
- A. A good doctrinal debate
 - B. Prayer
 - C. Witnessing about the plan of salvation
 - D. Study of the Scriptures

Quiz

13. What is God's main source of speaking to mankind? (SC 10.9).
- A. Nature
 - B. Providence
 - C. The Scriptures
 - D. Experience

Quiz

14. Who enjoys the beauties of nature with the highest appreciation? (SC 10.7)
- A. The poet
 - B. The scientist
 - C. The naturalist
 - D. The Christian

Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“MANY are the ways in which God is seeking to make Himself known to us and to bring us into COMMUNION with Him.” (SC 10.1).

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