

The Lord Knows

2 Peter 2:9



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FOCAL 2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

We live in the era known as “The Age of Reason”. There was a time when the Holy Bible was a rare thing. Few people owned a Bible because each and every copy had to be painstakingly hand written. Johannes Gutenberg, a German goldsmith and inventor, developed a press that was used to print books mechanically around 1436 AD. The earliest printed Bible is called *The Gutenberg Bible* because of the press it was made on. Our knowledge has grown since that time. Today we have the *Internet*, a tool linking computers together around the world. There are networks of television stations that send news broadcasts around the world through satellites that circle our planet. Man has grown very wise ever since he ate of the *tree of knowledge of good and evil* in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 2:17**).

In fact, many people believe that they have outgrown God. We have begun to believe, as Adam and Eve did, that we know all things and control all things. Yet our knowledge often uncovers us and shows us that we are naked.

The older I get the more comforted I am by the knowledge that “**The Lord knoweth**”. I have come to a place in my life where I know that I am not God, will not be God, and *don't want to be God*. “**The Lord knoweth**” - He knows all things. God did not have to work at learning all things, nor did He have to strive to develop

any of the things that we worked so hard to do. God made all things with the Word of His mouth, and made all things well. He created all things in *six days*, pronounced them *very good*, then rested on the seventh day. He did not rest because He was tired, for God does not tire, but He rested to be an example to us. He ordered that we His creatures stop our labors once each week and turn our eyes to Him, worship Him, rejoice in Him, because **the Lord knoweth**.

How great is God's knowledge? The Lord tells us through the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 46:9-11 Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me, (10) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: (11) Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken [it], I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed [it], I will also do it.

God's *omniscience* or supernatural knowing of all things at all times means that the Lord knows **the end from the beginning**. Life unfolds before us, and we watch and experience all things one day at a time. We only see what *has happened* and what *is happening*, but we cannot see *what will happen*. Many people think that it would be a

good thing to see into the future, but such knowledge would be terrible if you had no control over what would happen. The Bible teaches that *God knows all things* and also teaches that *God controls all things*. We know this to be true *experientially* for we have all read in the Scriptures the prophecies of the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Bible-teacher A.W. Pink** wrote:¹

“In Isaiah 53:2-3 we read, "And when we (Israel) shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not!" We pause here for a moment to enlarge upon this strange and striking phenomenon.

For more than fifteen centuries the Coming of the Messiah had been the one great national Hope of Israel. From the cradle the sons of Abraham were taught to pray and long for His advent. The eagerness with which they awaited the appearing of the Star of Jacob is absolutely without parallel in the history of any other nation. How then can we account for the fact that when He did come He was despised and rejected? How can we explain the fact that side by side with the intense longing for the manifestation of their King, one of their own prophets foretold that when He did appear men would hide their faces from Him and esteem Him not? Finally, what explanation have we to offer for the fact that such things were predicted centuries before He came to this earth and that they were literally fulfilled to the very letter? As

¹ In *The Divine Inspiration of the Bible*, Chapter 5

another has said, "No prediction could have seemed more improbable, and yet none ever received a sadder and more complete fulfillment."

I have preached Christ and Him crucified before many audiences that despised and rejected Jesus. Recently at the preaching of the Word one man stared intently out into space until the message ended then, with the most callous indifference, walked away from the meeting place as quickly as he could. You may wear a facade and pretend to be saved, but only the saved love the preaching of Christ. To the unsaved it is a condemnation, an embarrassment, and inconvenience. But **the Lord knoweth**.

The Lord knoweth, but His hand is not stayed – He controls all things *in relationship to me*. This is also taught in our focal text:

FOCAL 2 Peter 2:9 The **Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations**² ...

The word translated **temptations** means a **testing, a trial, a discipline, or adversity**. Trials come on believers – the godly – for a number of reasons. In the context that leads up to our focal verse we see that:

1. Trials Are Sometimes Thrust On Us By Sinful People

2 G3986, *πειρασμός*, *peirasmos*, *pi-ras-mos*', From G3985; a putting to *proof* (by experiment [of good], *experience* [of evil], solicitation, discipline or provocation); by implication *adversity*: - temptation, X try.

2 Peter 2:1-2 But there **were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**

(2) **And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**

The devil has emissaries that, like Judas Iscariot, they have sold out their Lord in favor of their own power or for wealth. These people come in contact with Christians and try to *make merchandise* of us. Our Lord Jesus Christ warned us:

Matthew 7:15-18 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

The Christian way of life is a *peaceable* way of life and a *loving* way of life. The false prophet - when he or she

comes - will not point to Jesus Christ, the One Who is **THE Way, THE Truth, and THE life (John 14:6)**. The false prophet, just like Judas Iscariot, will always point to himself and to his gain.

Like Judas Iscariot the false prophet will always proclaim his work above that of Christ's work, his majesty above that of Christ's majesty, his way above that of Christ's way.

Yet the false prophet's way will only try the Saint, lead us into affliction, or sell us snake oil that will not treat our true ills. Many of these false prophets are seen on television, on the Internet, or heard on the radio. Reject the false prophet!

FOCAL 2 Peter 2:9 The **Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations ...**

Illustrate You all know the story of the three Hebrew children **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**. These young men were given an ultimatum by **King Nebuchadnezzar** - "Bow down and worship this golden statue of me, or be cast into the fiery furnace." **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** told the King:

Daniel 3:16-18 ... we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter. (17) If it be [so], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,

and he will deliver [us] out of thine hand, O king. (18) But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Too many people want to *be God*, or to *be an advisor to God*. Listen Beloved: The position of God is already filled, and has been filled from all eternity.

We cannot tell God His business, nor can we advise Him on the best course of action to take. Take heed of the stand these three young men took. Their attitude was "No matter what may come of this, we *will keep our eyes on our God!*"

The world is commanding that we who are Christians bow down to the *golden statue of tolerance*. We are supposed to tell people that there are many ways to God, that all religions are the same, that all people ultimately worship the same Creator. Listen Beloved: **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly**. If you have given your lives to Jesus Christ by faith, if you have *called upon His Name and are saved*, the Lord will deliver you. He delivered Noah and his family by Ark. The Lord knoweth, and will deliver you even if you are cast in the fiery furnace of adversity. Trust Him, believe on Him. **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly**. **Thomas Watson** wrote:³

³ In *The Lord's Prayer*

“All things are naked and unmasked to his eye. (Hebrews 4: 13). Men plot and contrive against the church; but God is in heaven, and they do nothing but what he sees. If a man were on the top of a tower or theater, he might see all the people below; God in heaven, as on a high tower or theater, sees all the transactions of men. The wicked make wounds in the backs of the righteous, and then pour in vinegar; but God writes down their cruelty. 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people.' (Exodus 3: 7). God can thunder out of heaven upon his enemies. 'The Lord thundered in the heavens; yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.' (Psalms 18: 13,14).”

The Lord knoweth, and will deliver us. We need only trust Him and obey Him – He alone is God!

Now let's turn to an uncomfortable truth, and that is ...

2. We Sometimes Bring Trials On Ourselves By Our Own Bad Decisions

2 Peter 2:6-8 And {God} turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; (7) And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (8) (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in

seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;)

Illustrate There are times when God's people, saved by faith in Him, make *bad decisions* that lead to trials and temptations. The Bible tells us the story of **Abraham and his nephew Lot**. These two men traveled together from Ur of the Chaldees to the Promised Land.

Genesis 13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

Fighting broke out between the workers of Lot and of Abraham. Abraham looked at Lot and said, “Let's see if we can avoid trouble. Let's split up our herds. You pick which direction you'd like to go in, and I'll take the opposite direction. This way we'll keep peace in our families.” Lot looked out and saw choice green land, running streams, and a city far off on the horizon. “That's it, that's the path I want to take!” Lot chose to go in the direction of a city called Sodom, an awful, wicked place.

Many times believers invite trouble into their lives when they bind their lives with the unbelieving world. The Scripture clearly teaches us:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (KJV) "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath

righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? {15} And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? {16} And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. {17} Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, {18} And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

When a Christian binds his or her life with that of the unbeliever, we bind ourselves with trouble. As believers we want to share our faith with the lost. We want to tell them about the Lord Who saved us, and Who saves us still. But we need to be very careful not to bind our lives with the unbeliever. In the old days people plowed their fields with mules or oxen, but you never used a mule with an ox. If you put two unequal creatures together on the plow they would just end up killing one another.

Praise God that **He knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations**. The Lord has saved me many times from bad decisions, and saves me still. God has promised that:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

Our Creator loves us, because He gave Himself for us. He will not abandon us in the midst of trial – even if we have brought it on ourselves. The same **Lord Who Knoweth** is the same **God Who is love** (1 John 4:8).

3. The Lord Delivers The Godly From Trials, But The Ungodly TO Trial and Certain Judgment

FOCAL 2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Two things are mentioned as *certainties* in this text. First, **God delivers the saved out of temptations**. Second, **God delivers the unsaved to certain judgment and punishment**. How does God do this? How does He separate the godly from the ungodly, blessing one and cursing the other. The Bible teaches that **the Lord knoweth** because He looks *in our hearts*. He watches us at all times. The Psalmist said:

Psalms 139:1-3 O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known [me]. (2) Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou

**understandest my thought afar off. (3)
Thou compassest my path and my lying
down, and art acquainted [with] all my
ways.**

Nothing is hidden from God. On the day you were saved Jesus came into your lives. His Spirit, the Holy Spirit of Promise, came to live and be with you forever. On the day you were saved you rose from the altar renewed, *born again* by faith in Jesus Christ. The Lord said:

**John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and
know my [sheep], and am known of mine.**

Jesus knows you and watches over you. He is the good Shepherd, your and my Savior, the One we must follow. He knows us and our needs today, but also knows us and our needs *tomorrow*. There's a song that we sing that says:

**I don't know about tomorrow;
I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine
For its skies may turn to grey.**

**I don't worry o'er the future,
For I know what Jesus said.
And today I'll walk beside Him,
For He knows what is ahead.**

**Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand**

**But I know who holds tomorrow
And I know who holds my hand.**

The godly – we who have believed on Jesus Christ for salvation – are watched over by a loving Lord who guides our every step. The ungodly – the unbelieving world – will one day be judged by the same Jesus they now reject. Our job as Christ's people is not to worry about tomorrow, but to tell people about Jesus TODAY! The Bible says:

**2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his
promise, as some men count slackness; but is
longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should
perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

We have been given a Great Commission to “**Go and tell the world**”. Those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as Savior are under condemnation *right this moment*, so we must tell them that Jesus is the Only Savior – and that He bids them to COME and be saved. The Bible *begins and ends with the Grace of God*. The Lord will have as many as will come to be saved – but they must hear the Gospel, and they must come. Go and tell others about Jesus, if you have been saved. Tell others that this life is preparation for the life which is to come.

**Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ [be] with you all. Amen.**