

Not ashamed of knowing God (Quality: Very good)

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Preacher: Relf, John

[0 : 00] Welcome to Seeing Him, number 993, we make seen verse 2, Phew 375, on the side of daily Who no may can come to sin, no may can save, With darkness arranged by terrors' name, In joy and growing, I speak with thee.

Oh, dear, oh, I fit in mercy, Christ, My promise, my truth, I lighted my eyes. Still, still I am with thee, My promise shall stay, through tempest and tossing, My freedom in trust in me, My life is secure, my wisdom is perfect, Supreme is my power, in thy life I rest thee, My soul is pure, to make me a name, In my life is a show.

In number 993, to be seen in verse 2. O God, come from the MSN impacts, My heart is an area, where I am, The ■■■■ of my sky remains, In the cosmos, pitcher Jeghe Dag 584, of chag■ However, CHOIR SINGS

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CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS CHOIR SINGS Thank you.

[4 : 41] I know you, dear. The world I receive is when suffering for me.

I need you, dear. I know you, dear.

I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear.

I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear.

I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear.

[6 : 01] I know you, dear. I know you, dear. I know you, dear. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. First chapter in the second epistle of Paul to Timothy and verse 12.

Verse 12 in the first chapter in the second epistle to Timothy. For the which cause I also suffer these things.

Nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

[8 : 24] We spoke of a contrast between those who worshipped idols and could never be said to know whom they have believed.

There's not a God to know. That's a vain trust that vain men have in the works of their own hands. There's another contrast here now, I see.

Nevertheless, I am not ashamed. And what a contrast there is between a man who fears God and one who doesn't.

There we've all had, I would feel, most of us anyhow, experience of seeing men or women coming to their end.

And you really don't know how to speak to them when they've complained of their lot. What have I done to deserve this?

[9 : 30] I've lost my life. I've lost my health. I've lost my business. I've lost my wife. I've lost... And so they go on.

And their spirit is that they are ashamed. If there is a God, they would be ashamed of that God that's permitted these things to happen. If they've suffered wrongly or rightly or unjustly or for a good cause, they still would say, why?

Why have I suffered these things? What a difference between the spirit of the world, and we've all met it, and the spirit of the apostle. I am not ashamed.

I am not ashamed to be counted worthy of such sufferings. For he was called to bear the Lord's name amongst kings and to suffer.

I will show thee what great things thou must suffer for my name's sake. You see a true response of a loving heart there, don't we?

[10 : 44] That he didn't count the cost. He counted not his life dear to him. I tried to lead you into the tender heart of the apostle Paul as he was at this time.

Their afternoon reading confirmed it, didn't he, in his concern for Timothy, that he beware also and fight the good fight of faith and keep to sound words and doctrine.

And his great concern of his love to Timothy, expressing as he did, his being forsaken by nearly all that were with him, and having comfort in just a few like Timothy and Luke, and how he didn't feel ashamed to feel that all men had left him.

He was left alone. Nevertheless, he said, the Lord stood with me and strengthened me. I want you to see in his spirit and in his experience, I trust, some of your own, you say, ah, but what faith there was in the apostle.

What great faith. What steadfastness of faith. What assurance of faith. What deep experience of faith. But it's in weight and measure, the Lord deals with us and gives to us these things.

[12 : 27] Wouldn't it be sad if you and I were ashamed, ashamed of Christ, ashamed of his cross, ashamed of him in this present evil world, the apostle said this morning, if we deny him, that is, if we continue to deny him, he will deny us.

But Timothy was aged. He was not weary in his labours, but weary through them. And no doubt he was longing to be at rest.

And the day of his departure was at hand. He knew it wouldn't be long before he would be roughly removed from this world by some form of suffering and martyrdom of death.

Had he not been delivered out of the hand of men, out of the mouth of the lion, weren't men ever seeking to threaten his life and imprison him and count him an enemy?

But in all this, he said, I count not my life, dear, these things don't move me. The Lord stood with me. He said, I'm ready to be offered.

[13 : 57] The day of my departure is at hand. And he was shortly to be brought before Nero in Rome. But he had his eye, didn't he?

By faith upon the judgment seat of Christ. Jesus said to his disciples, fear not, men, fear not what they can do to your body.

fear him that can destroy both body and soul in hell. And Paul didn't fear men.

He didn't fear what they could do at the judgment seat. But no doubt his eye, always yours and mine, my friends, is it toward the judgment seat of that great day.

There would be a judgment seat there. And there would be a righteous judge. And it would be righteous judgment. We have pondered in perhaps a bit of a fantasy sometimes and a little bit of a fear.

[15 : 11] Should you be brought before a court of law in this country when justice seems to be perverted in so many ways? You say, if I was brought before the court, how would I fare?

Would the judge judge rightly? Would he judge justly? You begin to wonder, don't you? And rightly so. You know, you have to make a plea not guilty, or guilty when you're not, and the law is so complicated.

You really wonder sometimes how you will fare if you were brought in an innocent way, I hope, before a judge. A solemn thing if we were brought otherwise.

Is it some comfort and consolation to you that when you stand in that last judgment day, I would think all of us have that fear, don't we?

Well, when we stand before that great and awful throne, that white throne of which there is no repeal, no appeal, do you fear sometimes something will be brought against you that will dash all your hopes and you say, well, all my hopes and fears, my hopes are lost and my fears have all come through.

[16 : 41] I'm lost, forever lost. Do you fear that? When now my righteous judge shall come to take thy ransom people home, shall I among them stand, shall some such a worthless worm as I who sometimes am afraid to die be found at thy right hand?

You know, there's such a longing sometimes goes up in these prayers and desires, such a longing to be right, such a longing that the Lord will be merciful to you in that day.

Let's take a contrast from our reading this afternoon. The Apostle, in pondering that judgment day, said, the Lord have mercy upon Onesiphorus in that day.

He couldn't say for Onesiphorus, could he? I know whom I have believed and that in that day he will present me. He couldn't say that for him.

but he wished him well because he'd been kind to him. He commanded him to the Lord's mercy. And note the loving spirit of Paul when he said, the Lord have mercy in that day.

[18 : 09] We should need mercy, won't we? We should need mercy. The Apostle said, I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day.

Perhaps Onesiphorus never had. Perhaps Onesiphorus only had the sovereign mercy. Like the dying thief, eleventh hour mercy.

to look forward to or to hope in. We don't know. But Paul himself had a long life of proving mercy, living by it, living on it, rejoicing in it, proving God to be faithful, good and gracious.

A long time of walking with God. God, that expression seems to come hard to us, doesn't it? We seem to attribute it to those who boast, and those who are different from us.

We feel to wander rather than walk with the Lord. When we walk by faith, it isn't long in the morning before our eyes and our hearts are turned toward the Lord is in.

[19 : 36] We don't want to get too engaged in the business of the day before we seek the Lord, do we? It's many hours before we want the Lord to support us and nourish our spirits and refresh us.

At the end of the day, we can't lay down our heads without seeking the Lord, can we? Walking by faith. Lord is the strength of my life.

Lord is my portion forever. Well, if that's some of the substance in this text, let's come to one or two more particulars in it. For I know whom I have believed.

Vital knowledge, heavenly knowledge by revelation is found here. none of us would be here unless we are nominal, of course, in our religious profession, but otherwise we are only here because the Lord's been gracious to us and revealed his name and character to us, impressed us out of his word and by his spirit, and impressed our souls with a dread and with a sense of his holiness, and a sense of our need and a sense of his goodness, and if the Lord has caused his goodness to pass by you, if the Lord has been merciful to you and revealed himself to you, I don't know, I can't explain exactly what it is, but when the

Lord does reveal himself to a sinner, then you can say in effect, I know him, I know that God, when the Lord has given you to feel that holy, holy is his name, and when the Lord has given you through his dealings with you to sanctify the Lord God in your heart, sanctify his name and call him holy, if we were to sum up the substance of knowledge, you say yes, it's given to us by revelation, no man said Jesus knoweth the father but the son, and no man knoweth the father but the son, and he to whom he will reveal him, and you say, well, that is a profound truth, but as a simple sinner,

[22 : 28] I believe I've had Jesus Christ revealed to my soul as my only hope, as my saviour, as the Lord, my righteousness, as my king of love, and king of glory, and while I have but little faith and little understanding, I believe that is so.

Well, now, would you feel that that was a revelation from the father, that the father in his love and compassion has given you to know the son, and the holy spirit who speaks not of himself has revealed his son in you, the apostle could say, who has revealed his son in me.

Here are vital things, for when the apostle said he knew whom he believed, wouldn't he say that he believed about him, and then had to believe into him, and then believed on him, and then believed that Christ had revealed himself in him.

You put all these things together and see the profundity of them. To believe about Jesus Christ wouldn't do us much good, would it?

I'm not going to spend time on going into that holy argument, but to believe into him is very precious, and to believe on him is to see in that covenant of eternal grace and peace, your name written, your person given to the Lamb, your soul redeemed by his life and death, and his ascension into glory, your name written upon his breast, Christ.

[24 : 47] And that surely is to have Christ in you as the hope of salvation and glory. Now there's the whole aspect of believing, isn't it?

To believe by the Holy Ghost with all is to embrace all. There's no believing believing but by the Holy Ghost. For believing is a spiritual exercise.

Believing to know the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of all spiritual knowledge. We take these two things and join them together.

To know about him, to know of him, to know him spiritually by spiritual discernment, to know him graciously by gracious experience, and to know him in a sanctifying way, is truly to be said to know him.

I look at you and I think some of you have known the Lord in a sanctifying way, by crosses and by losses, by the proving of your faith, by the proving of your constancy, by rebuking you, humbling you.

[26 : 17] Our dear friend today spoke of that time when he was delivered from an evil which would have grown upon him, which he may not have been able to get out of in his work.

And he said, that was the way that the Lord delivered me from it, brought me into trouble, physical and soul trouble.

But that was the Lord's way of keeping me from sinning in the Lord's day, sanctified blessing to his soul.

Had the Lord delivered him from that sin, it could have overwhelmed him. As he said, if the Lord had not delivered me from that sin, I may have finished up in hell.

The Lord was merciful then in delivering, wasn't he? But that was sanctified to his heart. He's ever remembered that that's what God did for him.

[27 : 15] He's ever seen the purpose in God doing it for him. He's come to bless God for it, see the mercy in it. Surely isn't it one way of knowing God?

This God has been my God and my deliverer, my defender, my shield, and my defence, my buckler, and my hideout. Now we do know God by revelation then, and by spiritual discernment, and by a gracious experience of his mercy, his tender mercy, his long suffering and compassion, and in a sanctifying way.

Sanctifying is a beautiful way to consider that we are prepared as well as set apart for the happiness of heaven, the meekness of our spirits for it.

Now much has to be done to make you and me meet for heaven. to be willing to leave all behind. And the Lord's people are made willing to leave everything behind.

You think, how can I leave my loved one? How can I leave my home? How can I leave the larger family that God has given me? How can I leave all behind?

[28 : 47] And the Lord makes his people, as we've seen so often, willing to leave all behind? It's nothing compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us, the bliss prepared for his people.

And when the Lord brings us down, I shall never forget my own sister that was taken from us a year ago. She never professed much. she was always moral, always went to chapel.

And I thought I could have wept for my sister really, I felt, well, in her dying, she said, she has spoken this word to me, she has tried me as gold, and when I come forth, I should be as gold.

And I thought, my poor sister, she didn't want to come into this spiritual conflict. She didn't want to be tried as in the fire. She would have put it from her had she been well enough.

Yet, you see, the Lord was sanctifying that affliction to work his precious will in her heart. She should come forth as gold.

[30 : 06] It was a promise to her that she clung to. Many have tried me. I don't suppose she wanted the fire to try.

She knew the Lord was in it. She knew she wouldn't get better. Neither did she. But all to have that promise.

You might think, well, the trial of faith is for those that are strong. She wasn't strong. I don't suppose any of us are strong, really, are we, under the trial of faith. she certainly was.

But she endured and clung to that promise that I should come forth as gold. Took away the fear of death. the way the apostle knew Jesus Christ.

I know him. How different then from a creed or from a person. A figurehead, I mean, not a person. in many religions they have a figurehead and he's so lifted up and exalted that we have a saviour, don't we?

[31 : 25] We have an exalted head and his name is Jesus. He's our saviour and redeemer. We don't just love him as a figurehead, do we?

We love him as Emmanuel, God with us. I won't go over those aspects of the reasons why we love a person, all their love to us, all their concern for us, while Jesus, his holy and loving heart was full of concern.

For I know him whom I have believed and believing is a spiritual exercise. It's not only to believe about but to believe in.

I've heard a good many testimonies in my church life at Forest Fold for which I blessed God. When I was preaching there the other Sunday I felt overwhelmed at the love to the people that many of them, I don't have much to do with them so much now but I loved them as I preached them and I'd heard many of their testimonies.

many of them said well I knew about God and about Jesus Christ but didn't really mean much to me. I believed he was the son of God, it didn't question my mind that he was otherwise.

[32 : 53] So I believed about him and I came to fill my need of him. Many of them in their testimony spoke of believing into him.

Now that's very wonderful when you and I are brought to believe into Christ, to believe that he is, he is the son of God, he is what he's declared to be.

And then to believe in him is very wonderful. In him my treasures all contained by him my feeble soul sustained.

It's the language, isn't it? Do you feel that everything is placed upon his sacred head? The glory which I have, thou hast given me, I have given them, that's the gospel.

And they have known and believed that thou did send me and that I came out from thee. And thou hast given unto them eternal life. I will raise them up at that day.

[34 : 01] So there's a believing about him and a believing into him and a believing in him. Is your trust in Christ ill-placed?

There's many in this world whose trust is ill-placed who rest in buddhas and islams and popes and patriarchs and whatever form you have of witchcraft which is becoming very prevalent as many whose hopes are ill-founded but child of God is yours.

Believing in him my hopes can ne'er be lost never never him who has the testimony of heaven and of God upon him this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased don't just think these are doctrinal things they are wonderful things the love of God to his son the expression of it the true grace of it if you are able to enter into the love of God which is in Christ Jesus if as the apostle said he will reveal his exceeding great kindness in his love toward us through Jesus Christ an entrance into that a believing experience into it believing by the Holy Ghost and a spiritual believing why your believe about him and into him and in him your belief to the saving of your soul and be able to say

I know him in whom I have believed the apostle went further he said I am persuaded the world isn't persuaded about many things is it bishops and archbishops they write they are not persuaded they have got no comfort of the scriptures in their hearts it may be it may be not you and I brought up as we are but that isn't the point of truth here the point of truth is to being brought up as we are God being merciful to us we believe this word is infallible we believe it is given by inspiration of God we believe there is nothing before it and nothing beyond it we believe that what God has spoken is spoken here we believe that what God has said will abide if God says he will judge the wicked he will judge the wicked if he will show mercy on whom he will show mercy he will you don't want to prefabricate the scriptures or twist them or rest them we are thankful enough if God has given us to know him to believe them trust in them you can trust the scriptures trust God can I come to your heart and say yes believer with me you are persuaded that these words are given by inspiration of God and are profitable for all things they are able to make thee wise unto salvation not just the words themselves but being enlightened by the spirit

God given ways and means whereby we may be made wise unto salvation pray about it if you're not sure if you're not persuaded in your own mind pray about it let every man said the apostle be fully persuaded in his own mind you say I don't want to be persuaded in my own self will in my own self righteousness I want to be fully persuaded by the Lord can you bless God that he's persuaded you that you're fully persuaded in your own mind I've quoted this before and it won't it'll bear repetition especially at this time of the year an experience I had in our chapel before I went out to preach when I was brought into the liberty of the gospel

[38 : 40] I used to fear when I felt comfortable that I was walking reasonably uprightly and could pray reasonably and didn't seem too worried much by Satan or by guilty fears I used to feel alright when I used to feel harassed and in conflict I used to wonder where my soul was whether God after all would judge me and send me to hell and I was up and down like a scale and it distressed me oh you're out of the secret said Satan and that day this hymn came into my mind till God in human flesh I see my thoughts no comfort find the holy just and sacred three are terrors to my mind and I thought that's just what I'm feeling as if after all

I should be a cast away it brought me no comfort but terror then the thought came to my mind till God in human flesh I see that when Emmanuel's face appeared and Emmanuel's face did appear oh it did appear my thoughts my comforts rise his name forbids my slavish fears his grace controls my sin all that was also true in my experience in a moment my slavish fears that if I felt alright I was alright if I felt wrong I'd be wrong they were slavish fears because believer we're not walking on feelings are we we're believing in and walking by faith in the son of God who loved me gave himself for me we're not looking to our feelings to save us in that day they were slavish fears his grace removes my slavish fears oh I felt they were gone

I felt his grace did remove them his grace controls my sin I thought what a beautiful hymn that's just what I want his grace to control my sins to take away the love of sinning to give me to hate them pray against them and not be overcome by them not to fear that every time I'm troubled by sin I've lost my interest in the redeeming love of Christ that I've lost my birthmark that I should be perished it brought me out to gospel liberty you say surely if gospel liberty could give you to live loosely and carelessly no now it's been an anchor to my soul because we saw Emmanuel we saw God in human flesh spiritually discerned I believe that was a day when I committed the keeping of my soul unto the

Lord the Redeemer I believe that was a day when I was brought into gospel liberty that I felt Lord thou loved me given thyself for me I'm nigh didn't feel that anything sin Satan or hell would ever take that away I felt I committed the keeping of my soul unto him that judges righteously what will he judge whether I'm hanging on self or hanging on him and I was hanging my poor soul upon a righteous saviour and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day you see it's that day that matters with a believer we're all careless aren't we even believers are careless you say well I shan't die today

I should probably live a few months I probably shall live for a good many years but the foolish spirit of our heart says well you'll live forever yet you know that you'll come to die and the foolish heart says well you can trifle with sin the Lord's been merciful to you time and time again one more sin won't hurt one more disregard in unbelief to the Lord's holy commandments one more deflection from the love of Christ against the character of only won't matter says Satan won't matter and we're all careless at times aren't we and that day will surely come won't it the day of our death will surely come the day of our judgment and that great day of judgment will come that notable day of the Lord will come oh do you know whom you have believed are you persuaded that what you have committed unto him against that day will be saved it's against that day isn't it it's the committing of your soul isn't it how is then the committing of the soul in an arbitrary way or mechanical way no in a spiritual and in a believing way brought by the Holy Spirit of grace he's the spirit to you of truth and grace isn't he he's the spirit to us of grace and supplication and he's the spirit that inspires faith exercises faith and inspires the love that faith works by and love has redeemed us and when the love of Christ and the love brought by the Holy Spirit in a sinner's heart meet there's a committing of your poor soul unto the Lord isn't there and there's a receiving of the pledge of his dying love his infinite love and your soul is impressed with the love of Christ are you persuaded that you've committed the keeping of your soul as a sacred pledge and have the pledge of his love and a holy kiss in your soul what did David say

[45 : 57] I know I often speak I'm conscious I often bring this before you when I come to Brabant surely goodness and mercy yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death contemplated it it would be a valley of the shadow of death there would be death there in its shadow death is swallowed up in victory believer but the shadow of death will be there and yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil because he was persuaded in his mind he committed the keeping of his soul David in his most trying moments in his darkest moments said although my house be not so with God I can see trouble in my family I can see trouble everywhere

I can see trouble in the kingdom my house is not as I would have it it's not as God would have it seemingly although my house be not so with God yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant ordered in all things ensure although he make it not to grow not to grow or prosper as David would say it seems as if everything is against me like Jacob fell but he was persuaded in his own mind that what he committed to the Lord would be brought to pass he's made with me an everlasting covenant it's ordered in all things ensure now David could say I will fear no evil there's no evil that can take this from me that's ordered in all things ensure if death should lay hold upon me it can't rob me of immortality and life it's looking to a portion beyond this life what men can do unto me said the apostle

I will not fear what men can do unto me they can only destroy my body they can't destroy my life my spiritual life my eternal hope of glory they cannot destroy that they said the apostle here I'm persuaded I am persuaded that he is able to keep that faithful covenant keeping God a God who keeps promises God who keeps trust with his people in tokens of his loving kindness and tender mercy to them while they live keeps the promises alive in their hearts by the Holy Ghost by the comfort of his word what have you got my friends that is being nurtured in your soul the hope of eternal life in hopes to see his face you have tokens of his love and the comforts of his truth and promises you have the sweet tokens that he has loved you with an everlasting love he will never leave you nor forsake you or the work of his hands

I'm persuaded that he is able to keep that which he has committed against that day that day when the Lord will appear that great and notable day of the Lord come when the heavens shall dissolve it's all spoken of here I wonder without these words of the apostles can any of you and I face up to that day that day will come won't it when now my righteous judge shall come to take thy ransom people home shall I among them stand shall I among them stand but what righteous judgments there will be as I've said already and I will close on this remark the Lord has promised to put our sins as far as the east is from the west and that can't be farther can it they shall never meet well they the east and the west and those sins laid upon Jesus

Christ are put that far are put behind his back forever and I firmly believe that while we could have at times a fear that some sin will be brought up against us and that's all their hopes and some might have that hope that their sins will never be brought up against us in that word which says that we must give an account of those things done in the body I think perhaps we overlook the love of God which is in Christ Jesus and the love of Christ and the love that takes away all fear I have that humble hope that when we see our sins we shall see them all charged on his dear head we shall see our sins however black they appear and have appeared they will appear as being dealt with and put away in the love and mercy of

[52 : 04] God oh what a wonderful day that will be that day that day a day when the head will be lifted up Joseph's head was lifted up according to that vision Joseph was raised to a throne and sinner you'll be raised to a throne you fear him now poor as you are in your love or be persuaded that he is able to keep that which you've committed unto him against that day perhaps some of you never have committed your soul don't matter you're still careless about it perhaps some of you aren't careless perhaps some of you are very concerned about it you want to commit the keeping of your soul I have people say to me I wish I could feel some of those things that you speak about and other ministers speak about but I just don't feel them it's not that

I don't want to I just don't well pray my friend that's all we can say to you pray and all that you may pray in the Holy Ghost that you might feel the Lord is toward you working in you these great things that you may be persuaded that you've committed the keeping of your poor soul only the other day in our chapel a man who had been a bad husband not a member with us he'd been a bad husband lost his wife and now he comes to chapel no different I said to him one thing is certain we've all got to die he said well yes he said but I'm not worried he said nothing I can do about it I thought here's an old man can't be long before he dies careless indifferent no grace in his heart at all else he wouldn't speak like that nothing we can do about it just do the best we can hope for the best says the world surely that's not your way no my friend let me encourage you to seek to commit the keeping of your soul and all that concerns you unto him against that day he'll never fail you the lord be with you and bless you amen our kind of layers in 327 to the hemen evening hymn 709 from whence is fear and unknowing as there will go by a good degree by spotless unfurlily and will the righteous judge of many can dare you to let bitter sleep which dawns to chastle me in other futures and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many

and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many and will the righteous judge of many A79 William listen to the cry from Atheniana Jegmask.

and on, be chant you that I middle search and spring In the heart which is God.

Amen. In messes behaviour. but soon, it is not true, I will reveal in my Lord and God will Or ■■■■■ his Thank you.

[59 : 57] Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, the communion of God the Holy Ghost be with us now and evermore.

Amen. Amen. Amen. God willing I pray with you and you will go on Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock and also God willing and Mr. P. Braxton