

WHO IS JESUS?

JOHN 1:18

# JESUS IS OUR PREACHER



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**FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

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# INTRODUCTION

**How can I know God?** I know people by seeing them and hearing them. I watch them and I listen to them and get to know them through my eyes and ears. But how can I know God whom I cannot see or hear.

God makes himself known through creation, providence, conscience, and the Bible. But he has chosen to make himself known and knowable most fully and clearly in Jesus Christ. So the simple answer to "**How can I know God?**" is, "In Jesus." As the Apostle John put it: **No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known** (1:18).

Now, of course, we cannot see Jesus with our eyes or hear Jesus with our ears. But we do have a perfect record of his life and death in the New Testament. Let's take time to know God through Jesus.

## BACKGROUND

- Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1-2)
- Jesus is our Creator (1:3)
- Jesus is our Light and Life (1:4-9)
- Jesus is our Big Brother (1:10-13)
- Jesus is our Tabernacle (1:14-17).
- Jesus is our Preacher (1:18)

As the Word, Jesus communicated God. As the Tabernacle, Jesus revealed God. This is where John began and he returns there to summarize the first 18 verses.



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# 1. JESUS KNOWS GOD

## We do not know God

*No one has ever seen God* (18).

No human eye can survive the sight of God (Ex. 33:20). We have physical eyes that cannot see a spirit. We have weak eyes that cannot see the Almighty God. We have sinful eyes, that cannot see a holy God. If we saw God directly we would die immediately. But does it not say that God spoke with Moses face-to-face (Ex. 33:11)? Yes, but what Moses was seeing was the Son of God appearing in human form or cloud form. If we don't and can't see God, who does and who can? God.

## Jesus is God

*...the only God* (18).

Only God can see God. Only God can know God. That's why it's so important that Jesus is God. That's his supreme qualification. Most preachers have a Master of Divinity, but Jesus is Divinity.

## Jesus is beside God

*the only God, who is at the Father's side* (18).

The President appoints an official spokesperson to communicate his decisions and views. It also helps us to have confidence that what this spokesperson says is accurate and reliable in contrast to other less credible sources.

This person is with the President most and is in the room when major decisions are reached. So, when we read that Jesus is **at the Father's side**, we are being encouraged to trust his credibility as the Father's official spokesperson and distrust all other alleged sources. It's literally, 'who is in the bosom of the Father.' You can't get closer or more trusted than that. It's the special place of favor next to the most important person at the banquet (Luke 16:22; John 13:23). Jesus is at the very heart of the father. Who better to make God known?

## CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH JESUS' STORY

**Distrust yourself.** "Well, I think..." If you ever start a sentence like that when talking about God (or hear someone use similar language) just know that nothing after that is reliable.

**Trust Jesus.** What other credential does he need? He not only sees God, and is the heart of God, but is God. Everything he says about God is therefore trustworthy.

TRUST THE MASTER WHO IS DIVINITY  
MORE THAN A MASTER OF DIVINITY



If Jesus knows God, what does he do with that knowledge?



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## 2. JESUS MAKES GOD KNOWN

### *...he has made him known*

God wants to be known and Jesus makes him known. Jesus put on flesh to make God known. He exhibited the invisible God in human flesh (Heb. 1:3; 1 Tim. 3:16; John 10:30; John 14:9; Col. 2:9). It's literally 'he has exegeted him.' To exegete is to interpret and explain a difficult text in a simple way. Jesus interprets and explains God as simply as possible. Jesus makes known all we are capable of knowing in a bearable way. What of God do we see displayed in Jesus? What does he make known?

### **We know God wants to be with us**

Whatever else we learn about God through Jesus, we learn that God wants to be with us and wants to be known and loved by us. So much so, that one of Jesus's names is Emmanuel, God with us. That's proven by the birth and life of Christ. But the ultimate proof is the death of Christ because it shows us the extreme lengths God will go to, to make it possible for us to be with him and he with us.

### **We know God wants to save us**

The Old Testament revealed God as Savior. The covenants, the Tabernacle, the history of Israel and of individual Israelites, all preached God is Savior and delights in saving. But Jesus made this known in a 33-year-long sermon that culminated in his death and resurrection. He died to save us because he was dying to save us. If you ever doubt whether God desires or would delight in your salvation, look at how plain and big the letters are over the cross. God wants to save us.

### **We know God wants to beautify us**

God not only wants us with him, and wants to save us, but wants us to look like him. His great desire is to have lots of people who bear his Son's image. Look at how much Jesus preached and practiced holiness to see how much God prizes and prizes holiness.

## CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH JESUS' STORY

**God is knowable through Jesus.** Don't let anyone tell you God cannot be known. He cannot be fully known, but in Jesus he can be sufficiently and savingly known. We get an elementary education from Moses, but we get a PhD through Jesus.

**Know God through Jesus.** If you want to know God, know Jesus. He is the only way to know God. He is the only school that teaches who God is and what God is like. He is the best preacher in the world. He knows exactly what to say and how to say it.

GOD DOES NOT HIDE BEHIND JESUS,  
HE REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS

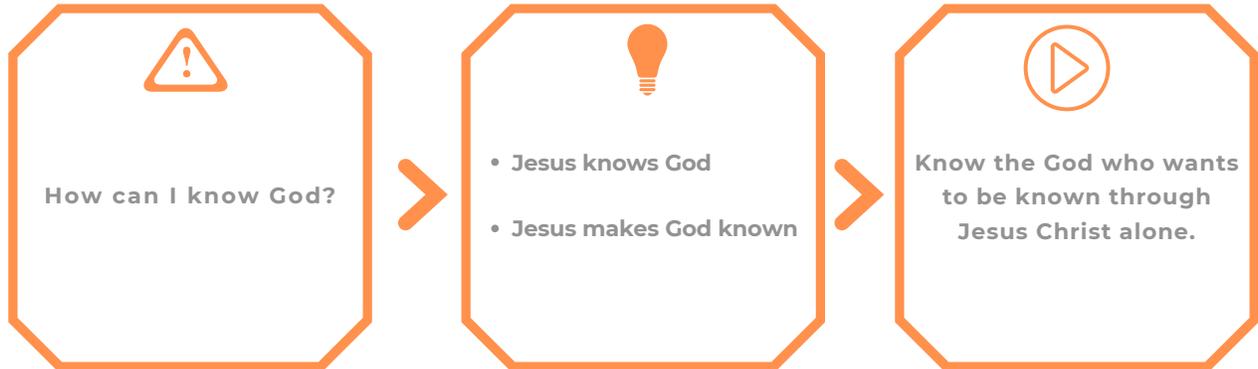


Hear God's Story > Change your story > Tell the story.



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# SUMMARY



**PRAYER:** Knowable God, I thank you for Jesus, the best preacher of the best sermons in the world. Help me to know you through him alone. Amen.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What ways do people try to use to know God? What are the problems with them?
2. How does God make himself known through creation, providence, conscience, and the Old Testament? What are the problems with these?
3. What credentials do you look for in a preacher? How does Jesus exceed them?
4. What makes Jesus a good exegete/interpreter of God?
5. What else does Jesus make known about God?
6. If God's Story has changed your story this week, how will you share that story with others?

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