

God is the cause of all that began. He is the cause of all that happens. Do you know God as the creator? Do you get disgusted about the weather? God causes the weather. God has a purpose in the weather. It is God's desire that you learn more about Him through the weather, through all the things He has created. Let us praise God for all He has created. Let us recognize that God is not merely a great force that creates and makes things happen, but He is a wise planner. In Rom.8:28 we read that God makes all things work together for good to those that love him and are the called- according to His purpose.

Things come into your life. Do you recognize that God sends them? for your good? Do you learn to know God better through them. Every now and then I hear of someone who becomes bitter because of things that have come into their lives. People who profess Christ! Who claim to be Christians and then they get bitter because something comes into their lives. Nothing can happen in your life except as God permits it. Perhaps He has a purpose in it for your good. Perhaps He has a purpose in it in relation to the whole world that is vital and it is necessary you submit to it in order that this great purpose be accomplished. You should be happy about that!

You can come to seminary and study and learn lots of theology, learn facts, learn principles about God. All that is valuable and important. But do you know God? That's not an objective which you can obtain. It is a goal toward which you can strive. You can spend your whole life learning to know God and you can go on through eternity learning to know Him better, to know God the Creator, God the wise-planner, God the loving Father.

If we come to seminary and just learn facts, it is a waste of time, but if we learn to know God then we can take all the facts that we learn, all the abilities we attain, and He can use them for His purpose. Let us seek to learn to know God.

In the OT as in the NT, God reveals Himself most particularly through the person of His Son, the Second Person of the Godhead. We find in 2 Cor.4:6, "For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness has shined into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." You can make theories about what God is like, about what His character is, but the best way to know what God is like is to know what Jesus Christ is like as He is revealed to us in the Gospels. Jesus Christ was the effulgence of the Creator. By Him all things were made. He said, Why do you ask to show us the Father. If you see me you have seen the Father. The Father and I are One." Jesus Christ is God. We know Jesus as Creator. We have been saved from our sins through Him. Fine! But that's only the first step. We want to learn to know Jesus Christ more and ~~XXXXX~~ more. Who would you think of that really knew Christ? Would you think of anyone more than the Apostle Paul? But Paul said in Phil.3:12, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, but I follow after ~~f~~ if that I may apprehend that for which I also am apprehended of Christ Jesus." In the previous vv., vv.8-10, Paul said, "Yea doubtless and I could all things but loss ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count