

Knowing God
Chapter 1 & Preface(1973)—The Study of God

- 1. Preface(1973): What does the author mean by “balconcers” and “travelers”? pages 11, 12 Which are you?**

- 2. What are the five basic truths, the five foundation principles of the knowledge about God that will plot our course in this book? pages 20 These truths are the skeleton on which to build our knowledge and experience of God.**

- 3. What should be our ultimate aim in studying the Godhead? page 23**

- 4. How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? page 23**

- 5. What does it mean to meditate? page 23 Please explain in your own words.**

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Chapter 3—Knowing and Being Known

- 1. Read aloud page 33 (up to the last paragraph). What should be our purpose in life? What makes life worthwhile? page 34**
- 2. What happens when the Almighty Creator, “before whom the nations are as a drop in the bucket”, breaks through to an individual and speaks to him personally? Explain the process of becoming God’s covenant partner like Joseph (in Old Testament). page 36**
- 3. What four things does the activity of knowing God involve? page 37**
- 4. How is a contemporary Christian’s relationship with Jesus different from the relationship Jesus’ first disciples had with him? How is it the same? page 38**
- 5. What does it mean to say that knowing God is a matter of first, “personal dealing”, second, “personal involvement” and third, “a matter of grace”? pages 39-41**

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Chapter 4—The Only True God

- 1. Read the second commandment about idolatry in Exodus 20:4, 5. Explain this commandment. How does Packer apply this principle to Christians? page 44**
- 2. Concerning the second commandment, how do images dishonor God(pages 45, 46) and mislead people (pages 46, 47)?**
- 3. What are the negative and positive purposes of the second commandment? page 48**
- 4. If the second commandment forbids us to take our ideas of what God is like through images or visible representations of God, how, then, will we ever know what God is really like? page 48 (last third of page)**
- 5. What test does Packer give for determining whether God is the Christian God? page 50**

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Chapter 5—God Incarnate

- 1. What does Packer say is the supreme mystery that the gospel confronts us? Why? What are the “two mysteries for the price of one”? page 53**

- 2. How does the mystery of the incarnation dissolve other difficulties in Christian doctrine like the miracles, atonement of all sin by Christ's blood or the bodily resurrection of Christ? pages 52-54**

- 3. What seven characteristics does Packer tell us about the Word becoming flesh? Please give the verse with each one and amplify. pages 56, 57**

- 4. What does the statement mean, “The impression is not so much one of deity reduced as of divine capacities restrained”? How can we account for this restraint? Explain Jesus' relationship to his Heavenly Father while he was on earth. John 5:19, Phil. 2:5-11 bottom page 61 & page 62**

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Chapter 6—He Shall Testify

- 1. What does the gospel of John teach us about the Holy Spirit's work in our lives as well as His relationship with the Father and the Son. John 14-16 pages 66-68**
- 2. Packer maintains that the church consistently ignores the work of the Holy Spirit. Why does he say this? pages 68, 69 How does your awareness of the Holy Spirit's ministry make a difference in your life? (Your personal response on this last question)**
- 3. Why is it that without the Holy Spirit there would be (1) no gospel, (2) no New Testament and (3) no Christians? pages 69-71**
- 4. In the section called “Our Proper Response”, what is implied about how we can honor the Spirit (1) in our faith, (2) in our life and (3) in our witness? pages 71, 72**

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Chapter 7—God Unchanging

State the six aspects of God that doesn't change and answer the question(s) related to each one:

1. God's _____ does not change. page 77

A. Give Bible verse to support this:

B. Contrast the life of God with the life of His creatures.

2. God's _____ does not change. pages 77, 78

A. Give Bible verse to support this:

B. Contrast the stability of God's character with that of human beings.

3. God's _____ does not change. pages 78, 79

A. Give Bible verse to support this:

B. Contrast the words of God with the words of mankind.

4. God's _____ do not change. page 79 What are some things God does today which He also did in Bible times? Why?

5. God's _____ do not change. pages 79, 80

A. Give Bible verse to support this:

B. Why does God never repent? How do we explain the verses which speak of God repenting?

6. God's _____ does not change. page 80 Give Bible verse to support this:

Personal and Class exercise: Read each of these verses aloud and give your impression after reading and hearing them: Psalm 93:2, Jeremiah 10:10, Romans 1:22-23, I Timothy 6:16, Psalm 90:2, Psalm 102:26-27 and Isaiah 48:12.

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Chapter 8—The Majesty of God

1. When we stress that God is personal, what must we be sure we do not communicate? Please explain what Packer meant. page 83

2. The first idea of God's greatness is “we must remove from our thoughts of God limits that would make him small.” On pages 85, 86, Packer discusses Psalm 139. How does this Psalm highlight God's presence, knowledge, and power?

3. The second idea of God's greatness is “we must compare him with powers and forces which we regard as great.” Read Isaiah 40 as well as the words of Packer. To what powerful forces is God compared? pages 86-88

4. What three questions does Isaiah ask the downcast Israelites? What does each question rebuke? What can we do to be guiltless of each rebuke? pages 88, 89

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Chapter 9—God Only Wise

**1. “Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.” page.90
How is God’s wisdom different from man’s wisdom? or in other words, What attributes accompanies God’s wisdom to makes it infallible? page 91**

2. What is God’s ultimate goal and immediate goal for mankind? page 92

**3. How do we see the wisdom of God manifested in the life of:
a. Abraham (pp.93-94) b. Jacob (pp.94-96) c. Joseph (pp.96-97) d. Us (pp. 97-98)
Discuss the changes that God worked in their lives. What changes has God done in your life? What process did God use to do this?**

4. In what ways is Paul’s life and attitudes a model for us? page 98

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Chapter 10—God’s Wisdom and Ours

1. The attributes of God are classified in two groups: incommunicable and communicable. Explain the difference between the two and name some attributes of God which fall in each category. pp. 99-100

2. What does this statement mean: “God is at work in Christian believers to repair his ruined image by communicating these qualities (communicable attributes) to them afresh”? page 100

3. What are two prerequisites to learn in order to lay hold of the gift of wisdom? Explain each one. page 101

4. What lesson about God’s wisdom do we learn from the book of Ecclesiastes? What are the spiritual qualities God is trying to instill in us through these lessons? pp. 106-107

5. What is the effect and fruit of God’s gift of wisdom? page 108

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Chapter 11—Thy Word is Truth

- 1. What is the threefold character of God’s Torah (law)? page 110**

- 2. God’s words to Adam & Eve in Genesis 2-3 fall into four categories.
List the four categories and reference the verses that fit each category. Page 111**

- 3. What was the first lesson God taught Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 1:10) How could a prophet, whose only job was to talk, be described as the God appointed ruler of the nations? p. 112**

- 4. What analogy does Packer give between our treatment of our body and treatment of our soul? What do each run on? page 114 Ultimately, per Richard Baxter, every human being opts to become a “_____” or a “_____”.**

- 5. How does God’s faithfulness to us show itself? page 115
Psalm 145:13b says, “God is faithful to all his promises.” Do you have a promise you have claimed and have seen God faithful to fulfill? What is it?**

- 6. What definition of a Christian does Packer propose? To what extent should this be true in our lives? page 116**

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Chapter 13—The Grace of God

1. **What four crucial truths does the doctrine of grace presuppose? pages 129-132**
 - a. **How do modern people view themselves so that they cannot understand or see the need of God's grace? pages 129-130**

 - b. **How does the view of modern man concerning punishment of evil differ from what the Bible says about the retributive justice of God? pages 130-131**

 - c. **What does the author mean by:**
 - (1) **The spiritual impotence of man. page 131**

 - (2) **The sovereign freedom of God. pages 131-132**

2. **According to Packer, what is "the grace of God"? Please define/explain it and give scriptural support. pages 132**

3. **The New Testament sets forth the grace of God in three particular connections.**
 - a. **How do we see the grace of God as the source of pardon? Give biblical evidence. Pages 133-134**

 - b. **Grace is the motive of the plan of salvation that God had in store for us from creation of the world. Give the elements of this salvation as listed in Ephesians 1:3-2:10. pages 134-135**

 - c. **Explain how grace is related to the preservation of the saints. pages 136**

Knowing God—J. I. Packer

Chapter 14—God the Judge

- 1. The Bible shows God as Judge who will administer judgment for evil acts done. Give examples and verses from both the Old and New Testaments showing God as judge. pages 138-141**

- 2. Explain the following characteristics of God as judge:**
 - a. God the judge as a person of authority. page 141**

 - b. God the judge as a person identified with what is good and right. pages 141**

 - c. God the judge as a person with wisdom to discern truth. pages 141-142**

 - d. God the judge as a person of power to execute sentence. page 142**

- 3. Explain what Packer means by the words, “Retribution is the inescapable moral law of nature? pages 143**

- 4. Explain the sentence “The truth is that part of God’s moral perfection is his perfection in judgment.” pages 143**

- 5. Who has God the Father appointed as his agent in judgment? Give biblical proof of your answer. pages 144-145**

- 6. On top of page 146, answer the question, “How do free forgiveness and justification by faith square with judgment according to works?”**

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Chapter 16—The Goodness and Severity of God

1. Give the four reasons people are so muddled in their thinking about God. Page 159

2. Explain what is meant by the doctrine of the celestial Santa Claus. How is this theology defective in it's view of God? page 160

3. Expound on God's generosity distinguishing between "common" grace and "special" grace. pages 162

4. On a separate sheet of paper, give the verses of Psalm 145 that show God's "common" grace and those verses that show God's "special" grace. List in two separate columns.

5. Under the words "Our Response", give and explain the three lessons we learn about God's goodness and severity. bottom of page 165 and page 166

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Chapter 17—The Jealous God

1. Give Biblical support that God is a jealous God (pages 168, 169) and explain why God's jealousy is a virtue instead of a vice. page 170

2. What is the goal of the covenant love of God (top of page 172) and God's ultimate threefold objective for the world? page 172

**3. The jealousy of God requires us to be zealous for God.
From page 173, finish the following sentences of J. I. Packer;**

a. God's people should be positively and passionately

b. Zeal in religion is a burning desire to _____

**c. A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing..... And
that one thing is _____**

d. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is _____

f. Jesus said, "My food is _____

_____ page 174, John 4:34

**4. What type of church does God threaten to destroy because of His jealousy?
Give an example from the book of Revelation 3 and explain why God was angry with
this church. Pages 174, 175**

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Chapter 18—The Heart of the Gospel

- 1. What is the idea of propitiation(page 180) and what is the difference between propitiation and expiation(page 182)?**

- 2. How does Packer characterize the wrath which was propitiated at Calvary? What is it and what is it not? (pages 184 under “God’s Anger”)**

- 3. Explain the doctrine of propitiation as given by John Murray. (page 185).**

- 4. What do we need to understand in order to see the very heart of the Christian gospel? What is the fundamental problem the gospel solves? page 189, 190**

- 5. On the cross, Jesus took God’s wrath for us so that we could make peace with God establishing a new relationship, giving us forgiveness and acceptance. In the first and second paragraph on page 195, what price did Jesus pay to purchase our peace.**

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Chapter 19—Sons of God

- 1. How does God’s revelation of himself in the Old Testament differ from God’s revelation in the New Testament? pages 202-203**

- 2. In the gospel of John, God’s fatherly relation to Christ implied four things that also extends to us, God’s adopted children. What are they? page 205**

- 3. Packer says that justification is primary and fundamental to the gospel but that adoption is a higher blessing and privilege that the gospel offers. Why? page 207**

- 4. The Sermon on the Mount(Matthew 5-7), the charter of God’s Kingdom, deals with the the main issues of Christian obedience. Expound on the Sermon on the Mount as a basis of Christian conduct, Christian prayer and the life of faith. pages 210-213**

- 5. The truth of our adoption as sons gives us the deepest insights the New Testament affords. Describe how our adoption shows:**
 - (1) The greatness of God’s love- pages 214-216**

 - (2) The glory of the Christian hope- pages 216-218**

 - (3) The key to understand the ministry of the Spirit- pages 219-221**

 - (4) The meaning and motives of “gospel holiness”- pages 221-223**

 - (5) The clue we need to see our way through the problem of assurance- pages 223-228**

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Chapter 20—Thou Our Guide

1. Belief that divine guidance is real rests on two foundational facts; first, the reality of God's plan for us; second, the ability of God to communicate with us. Give examples of divine guidance in the Bible as well as Biblical promises that God will guide us. pages 231-232

2. How does God guide us? Can the Holy Spirit guide us apart from the Word of God?
bottom of page 235 top of page 236

3. Give and explain the six common pitfalls that keep us from finding God's will in our lives.
pages 237-239

4. Are we to view our troubles, hardships and problems as a signal that we are out of the will of God? Explain pages 239-241

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Chapter 22—The Adequacy of God

- 1. In Romans 8:31-35 the Apostle Paul asks four questions. Pages 260 to 276**
 - A. What are these four questions?**

 - B. Give the thought expressed by each question.**

 - C. In what way do these questions point to the adequacy of God?**

- 2. What does it mean when we say, “God is for us”? Pages 261-262**

- 3. Packer says that compared to the first Christians, we appear to be halfway Christians (bottom of 269 to 270, 271). Why is it that we fail to trust fully the adequacy of God?**

- 4. Give a summary of the book as to what it means to “Know God”. Pages 277, 278**