

Dr. Ernest Martin's Home Study Course: Lesson 13

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped Home Study Course made between 1977-98 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D. Former Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

BIBLE STUDY LESSON 13 WHO IS GOD THE FATHER AND HIS SON?

Why do we have the knowledge of God in the Holy Scriptures? Our purpose in this life is to get to know Him. We need to know Him and why we are here, and what Christ did for us.

The inspired Word of God is the only written 'key' to our knowing God, by studying daily what He says to us in His Word.

Colossians 1:16 For by him (the Word, Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Isaiah 51:12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; 13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth;... Verse 15 But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Few people give God much thought, and allow themselves to forget about Him, and instead be wrapped up in their own lives.

Paul in Romans 1 says that people do not want to retain God in their consciousness. The human mind finds it easier to 'forget' about Him.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

So the second way we can get to know and appreciate God is by observing the Creation which reveals His Power, Design, and the care He took in making our home here on Earth.

One way to retain God in our minds is to be aware all the time of the marvels of the world we live in. God has not chosen to make Himself visible to humans apart from a very few occasions. What He has made visible is the marvels of what He has made which reveal the invisible Power of the

Designer and Sustainer.

Romans 1:20 For the **invisible** things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

We spend our lives surrounded by the wonders of Creation. Observing them is continually to praise and thank God for the life we have, and the exquisite surroundings we live in.

Documentaries on the television use the amazing developments in science and photography to show the most intricate details of the fauna and flora. Yet one of the longest exponents of these shows, an extremely intelligent and well educated person chooses to think that everything evolved from nothing without any purpose. The apparent cruelty of the food chain makes it impossible for him to believe in a Creator God of Love.

Two of the greatest minds have given themselves over to a Godless view of the Cosmos. They postulate theories that everything came from nothing. They say that 'gravity' is the hero of the Universe, because before the 'Big Bang', there was no space, no matter, no light, no nothing. Suddenly, when the 'Big Bang' happened, there was endless space filled with hydrogen, which under the influence of gravity, formed itself into billions and trillions of stars, in countless constellations, and produced all by itself all we can observe in the heavens. All these ideas are presented as fact, and most of the people of the world accept these notions.

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

These men might well be highly intelligent, and they are, and somewhere in the recesses of their minds they know there is a God, but they have rejected that thought, and chosen to believe the nonsense of evolution, and have become fools who say there is no God.

Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

God's intelligence is so far above theirs.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. We need to look at Design and appreciate the Designer. People know that designers design clothes, and adulate them, and the models who wear them, but most fail to give God the credit for His incredible Works.

The theory of evolution comes from darkness, not from light. It denies God in whom there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

John3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

One day these very clever men will come to the realisation that God Is.

Why so much suffering?

People who adhere to the multiple thousands of Christian churches, groups and sects may believe that God Is, but do not like what He does in this world. Why is there so much chaos? Why is there so much suffering? We may want it to end, and it will, but God has a magnificent Plan. Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer as He did?

All suffering is an essential part of our experience of human life.

We who have the Holy Spirit will receive constant help and comfort. We need to keep within the Scriptures. To go outside the Holy Scriptures and choose to believe and accept the ideas of human beings instead is 'chattah' the sin of missing the mark.

The Logos is the Word, but it is far greater than mere words, as these are the God breathed inspiration for our knowledge, understanding and wisdom that are not contained in any other book in the world.

God is Love. But that leads to questions about all the horrors extant. 'Love' is possibly the most misused word in the English language. In the last few decades it has come to be equated with sex and lust. How can we really know what it means? Love has to be related to action, and for us to understand God's Love, the Bible tells of God's demonstration of what Love is.

The ultimate Love of God was demonstrated in His sacrifice of His Son for our eternal benefit. We also need to appreciate that the Word who became Christ, knew for aeons that He would one day give up His place in God to become a man and die. What a reason to be grateful to Him!

John 3:16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up (crucified): 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

We are Gods in the making, male and female

Psalms 82:6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

Because all references to God in the Scriptures use the masculine form of pronouns, He, Him, and is our Father, we tend not to think of God as having a female aspect to His Nature.

We are humans are 'Elohim', we are Gods in the making. We are male and female as God is.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God is male and female, and we are created in His image. God is always referred to by the masculine pronoun, but God embodies the feminine also.

Before there was any creation, before Christ Jesus was created by God the Father, God had 'Sophia', wisdom, a female consort in whom He delighted daily.

Proverb 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: 26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. 27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face

of the depth: 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: 30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

In all of nature we see the male/female aspect of Creation, even in the structure of everything there is a positive and a negative force, as in the atom.

This concept of God being both may come as a shock to many people, but the fact that everything God has made is bipolar, and we, His children, are created male and female is incontrovertible evidence of the Divine Nature.

The 'keys' to understanding God's Word

One reason human beings have difficulty in understanding the Bible is because they do not realise that it is written in God's own special language, in His own particular style and construction. Here in Isaiah, God tells us who He is going to teach knowledge and understanding of doctrine, and what the 'key' to this is.

Isaiah 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

So this is for those who are weaned from the milk, so longer babies, and ready for more solid food. The 'key' is to know that God talks to us in the Bible a little bit here and a little bit there. Many things we need to learn are somewhat like a jigsaw puzzle. One has to gather the pieces of the picture, and then fit them together, whether an event, a person, a time or a place.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, true Christians who are given greater understanding of God's language can learn from the apparent 'stammering', or the seemingly disjointed way teaching is made up.

Isaiah 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

This Hebrew word 'lawag', stammering' has the connotation in Hebrew of speaking unintelligibly, to have in derision, as in imitating a foreigner. And 'another tongue' literally refers to a different language.

Some ministers parrot the verse about 'here a little, and there a little', but

misuse this principle for their own purposes, often quoting completely out of context to suit their own ideas. So even 'scholars' do not necessarily study carefully to extract the details from different parts of Scripture, and build up a more complete picture by doing so.

If we do follow the several 'keys' to greater understanding, the Holy Scriptures come alive in '3D and surround sound'.

Male and female will be perpetuated in our resurrected Spirit life. Ephesians and Colossians reveal the mystery of God's Plan for us.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

We can know from the Bible that God has hands, feet, and a body. Christ said, "You have seen me, you have seen the Father." and we are exactly in His image. Exactly! We are God's people, and are called by His name.

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Everything we have and do to know God, comes by Grace.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (*by grace ye are saved;*) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Even to be 'called' by God and by Christ to become a member of his group, His Ecclesia, is a gift. It is never because someone heard an evangelist make an emotional appeal, or a minister preached a fiery sermon! It takes direct personal action by God to us as individuals.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Every factor of salvation comes by Grace. It is absolutely essential that we clearly understand that every virtue we have is a gift by Grace.

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

The gifts of belief, knowledge, understanding, wisdom, faith, confession, repentance, forgiveness; all of them are gifts from God.

Colossians 1:29 For unto you *it is given* in the behalf of Christ, not only *to believe* on him, but also *to suffer* for his sake;

Even suffering is a gift! The Holy Spirit is most certainly a Gift. So very few people in the history of human beings have had the Holy Spirit. Even Christ's disciples had the Holy Spirit *with them*, but not *in them* until the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as *God gave them the like gift* as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Paul said that he was the worst of sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

We may not be the worst of sinners, but we have zero righteousnesses of our own.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

And if we are seeking God, it is only because we have been gifted to do so.

There was only one person who was a worse sinner than Paul, and that was Christ Jesus because He *became* sin when He took on Himself all the sin of the entirety of human beings who have ever been, exist no, or ever will exist.

Why did Christ do this for us? Because He wanted to. He, was willing to go through the most agonising humiliations and slow death because our Creator wanted to bring many of God's children to glory.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The things we suffer do not make us perfect, that was done for us by Christ.

We do not like suffering, but it helps us to develop patience, and also gratitude to Christ for suffering for us. When we do suffer, it is the result of sin, not always ours, but the sin which is in the world wreaking havoc, but we have the consolation that we are a part of a great masterplan of God.

2 Corinthians 1:7 And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

So we are in a sense partaking of Christ's sufferings, but glory is coming our way. We are to rule others in the Kingdom, so we have had to suffer as those we rule will suffer as long as there are humans here on Earth.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's **sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

So our hope, our Christian hope is the resurrection to eternal life, and the glory that comes with it.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

This is why we can say with conviction as Paul did:

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

If we think we are suffering, we can spare more than a thought for God the Father and Christ Jesus who must be suffering through the entire period of human history until we are all saved, and this world is no longer subject to the result of sin.

We cannot imagine what God the Father went through as He watched His Firstborn Son die in the manner He did, ghastly, but that is the Love of God.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

They were willing to all that so that the human race could be part of Their Family for eternity.

So we are urged to have the mind of God and Christ in us, through the Power of the flowing of the Holy Spirit through our minds. In Philippians, Paul makes an impassioned plea for the group to model their lives on love and compassion for others, and have lowliness of mind.

Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Our work in Christ is to believe, and God is doing that work in us and for us as a gift.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. 28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, ***This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.***

YHWH is God the Father, is the Almighty God, and Christ was given full 'power of attorney' to speak in the 1st person as YHWH God, with the Authority of the Father through His work in the Old Testament period, and to this day. "I and My Father are One" said Christ. And here in Revelation:

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

This lesson ends with another impassioned plea from Paul that we walk worthy of our calling.

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church *ecclesia*: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

We will be presented to the Father blameless, and inherit eternal life so long as we continue our work of believing in Christ, and striving to be more like God every day of our lives.