

## **They Profess to Know God....**

### **Titus 1:16, “confess that they know God”**

**By Bob Young**

#### **Background**

Titus: Jewish backgrounds and Jewish problem, Paul sends Gentile minister

The text of Titus 1 raises questions: Who knows God? How do we know that we know God?

Some who profess to know God do not know him.

Context: admonish them, exhort, and speak (2:15)

Admonish those who profess to know God... (but do not)

What we say must be supported by what we do

#### **Biblical principles**

- 2 Tim 3:5, appearing to be righteous or pious, but in actions denying the power of godliness, avoid such persons
- Matt 7:21, do you know God? Does Jesus know you? Who does Jesus “know”? Who does Jesus recognize, the one who does the will of the Father
- 1 John 1:6, if we say we have communion, that is, if we say we know God, cannot walk in darkness, practice a lie, must practice the truth
- 1 John 2:3ff, one who claims to know God must keep his commandments
- John 14:15,21,23; John 17:3, knowing and love God is demonstrated by obedience

#### **What does it mean “to know God”?**

- To know about God is different than to know God; to know God is more than knowledge. Illustration: to believe or have faith is more than intellectual assent
- Greek word “to know” is interesting, is perfect tense of to see. Having seen, having experienced firsthand, then one knows. Implies intimacy, close relationship.
- To know God indicates not only an abstract concept, or intellectual affirmation, but in every aspect of life, the acceptance, the faith, the love, and the obedience to the true God and to Jesus Christ. (John 14:7,9; 16:3; 17:25; 1 John 2:3-6,13-14; 3:1,6; 4:7-8; 5:20).

#### **To know God, one must understand....**

The nature of God—what God is like, characteristics of God, how would you describe God, what does the Bible say, does our description of God match what the Bible says? God gave his son ONLY because he loved us... (What of his holiness and righteousness). To know God is to understand the totality of his nature

The heart of God—what God does, the actions of God, how would you describe the actions of God? What does God do?

The purpose of God—what God is trying to do in your life, what does God want to do in this world, in the church?