Ministry of Reconciliation (MOR) Bible Teachings



March 2022

MOR-Bible, which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Peace to you and grace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and us. Father, thank you for your Word which tells us your Will. Thank you for giving your sons and daughters clear and exact knowledge; a knowledge that has a powerful influence on all of those who study and rightly divided your word and live it. In the name of your son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

In the <u>February 2022</u> teaching, we reviewed the first usages of the Greek word *epignosis* used for our English word "knowledge" documented in Romans 1 and the contexts in which it was used. The Greek word *epignosis* means "clear and exact knowledge; a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower; full knowledge." In that teaching, we learned the basic truths, the principles, and the standards regarding men and women that choose to be homosexuals from Romans 1. God our Father wants His children to have clear and exact knowledge; a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower. Romans 1 provided a "full knowledge" about homosexuals.

We learned from God's Word that He has completely given homosexuals up and over to a reprobate mind; to do those things which are not seemly, befitting, fit or proper, because by their free will they did not retain a clear and exact knowledge of God's Word in their minds. So, their minds became corrupted, and God had to give them up and over to another power. There are only two powers, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (see 2 Corinthians 11:31). 2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Romans 1:16:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel [good news] of Christ [the now glorified one]: for it is the power of God unto salvation [wholeness] to everyone that believeth; to the Jew [Judean - Acts 2] first, and also to the Greek [Gentiles - Acts 10].

In this month's teaching, we will continue our tracking, tracing, and searching of the scriptures for the Greek word *epignosis* used for our English words "**knowledge** and *acknowledgment*" from 1 Timothy 2:4:

Who [God] will have all men [peoples] to be saved, and to come unto the **knowledge** of the truth.

Our purpose is that you will make a distinction and make a daily decision that what God's Word says is the truth! Please note: The word **knowledge** and **acknowledgment** will be bolded to emphasize its use as *epignosis*. Additionally, the sources for all Greek-English words are The Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament (1975) and Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible (1982).

Now, let's review the next nine usages of the Greek word *epignosis* translated into our English word **knowledge** and **acknowledgment**. You remember from last month's teaching there are twenty (20) occurrences of the Greek word *epignosis*. Sixteen (16) of the twenty (20) occurrences of the Greek word epignosis are translated into our English word "knowledge" and four (4) times it was translated into our English word "acknowledgment."

Let's start with the first usage number 1 *epignosis* as documented in Romans 1:28:

And even as they [homosexuals] did not like to retain God in their **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis], God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.

Romans 3:20 is the next usage. For context, we will include verse 19, followed by verse 20:

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Therefore, by the deeds [works] of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his [God] sight: for by the law is the **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] of sin.

God our Father has justified every born-again Christian because of the believing of Jesus Christ, not by works! Therefore, by the Law, the Word of God is a clear and exact knowledge which has a powerful influence on the knower of sin. We have a full knowledge of what is sin documented in God's Word!

The third usage of *epignosis* is in Romans 10:2. Once again, we will share verse 1 for context, followed by verse 2:

Brethren, my heart's desire, and prayer [the specific request] to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

For I bear them [Israel] record [witness] that they have a zeal of God, but not according to **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis].

Paul said I bear witness that Israel has a zeal or vehement passion for God, but not according to a clear and exact knowledge of His Word. Remember, *epignosis* means this knowledge has a powerful influence on the knower or full knowledge to the point that the person might be saved. There are a lot of people today that have a great vehement passion for God, but this passion is not based on a clear and exact knowledge of His Word. This kind of knowledge (*epignosis*) provides the information needed so that they might be saved and be filled with the gift of holy spirit in manifestation!

The next usages we will read are documented in Ephesians which is also a Doctrine Epistle. Ephesians 1 begins with the born-again sons and daughters of God who are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (see Ephesians 1:3). Ephesians tells us what God has already done for us in Christ and what we have in Christ:

- Chosen in God before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love (Ephesians 1:4).
- God has made us accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1:6).
- Redemption through Jesus Christ's blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).
- God has abounded toward us all wisdom and prudence (Ephesians 1:8).
- God made known to us the mystery of His will, according to God's good pleasure which He hath purposed in himself (Ephesians 1:9).
- An inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of God who worketh all things after the counsel of His own Will (Ephesians 1:11).
- We should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ (Ephesians 1:12).
- We believed, and we were sealed with that holy spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13).

The fourth usage is in Ephesians 1:17 and we will include verse 16 for context, followed by verse 17:

Cease not to give thanks for you [the saints who are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus], making mention of you in my prayers.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] of him [God].

In these verses, the specific purpose of Paul's prayer was that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give the saints, the holy ones which are at Ephesus (and to the faithful in Christ Jesus) the spirit of wisdom and revelation in a clear and exact knowledge (a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower). I invite you to continue reading verses 18-23 to discover an amazing prayer!

My specific prayer to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, and our Father is that He may give us, the born-again believers in the body of Christ, that are faithful to His Word, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in a clear and exact knowledge. And that this knowledge may have a powerful influence on us the knower. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

The fifth usage of *epignosis* is in Ephesians 4:13. We will read verses 10-12 for context, followed by verse 13:

He [Jesus Christ] that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Till [until] we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] of the Son of God, unto a perfect us, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

These verses tell us that we, as the body of Christ, will have the five gift ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers; until all believers come into unity (oneness, at-one) of the togetherness of faith which is the Greek word *pistis* for believing AND of a clear and exact knowledge or *epignosis* (a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower). We will have the full knowledge of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This will be a perfect end for us to the measure of the stature or age of the fullness of Christ, the head of the body! This will only happen with the return of Christ! I give thanks to God our Father, with my understanding of His Word and in the spirit for what He has accomplished for us in Christ!

Philippians 1:9 is the sixth usage of *epignosis*:

And this I pray, that your love [agapee] may abound yet more and more in **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] and in all judgment.

Paul prayed with the bishops and deacons for all the saints in Christ Jesus which were at Philippi. He prayed specifically that their love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation may abound more and more in a clear and exact knowledge or *epignosis* (a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower; full knowledge in all judgment). The word "judgment" in this verse is the Greek word *aistheesis* which means "perception by the external senses; hence, power of discerning."

Colossians 1:9-10 represents the seventh and eighth usages of epignosis:

For this cause we [Paul and Timothy] also, since the day we heard it [your love in the spirit], do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] of his [God] will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] of God.

When Paul and Timothy heard of the faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse, and their love in the spirit for them, they prayed and desired that the Colossian believers might be filled with a clear and exact knowledge or *epignosis* (a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower) of God's Will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Paul and Timothy prayed also that they might walk worthy of the Lord to all pleasing and be fruitful in every good work. Paul and Timothy wanted these faithful brethren at Colosse to have an increasingly clear and exact knowledge or *epignosis* (a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower) of God! Paul and Timothy's desire was that the Colossian believers would have a full knowledge of God's Word which they had studied and made their own! What a tremendous prayer!

Colossians 2:2 represents the ninth usage of *epignosis*:

That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the **acknowledgment** [the Greek word epignosis] of the mystery [the Greek word musterion] of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.

Because of his care and concern, Paul prayed for those believers at Laodicea even though many of them had not met Paul. He prayed that their hearts might be comforted and be knitted together in the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation. Paul

prayed that all riches of the full assurance of God in Christ would be to the believers at Laodicea and that they would have an acknowledgement of *epignosis* (a clear and exact knowledge; a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower). Paul wanted the believers at Laodicea to have the full knowledge of the mystery of God our Father, which is that the Gentiles would be fellow heirs and of the same body and partakers of God's promise in Christ by the gospel, the good news of the Grace Administration (Ephesians 3:6) and of Christ who is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23).

Colossians 3:10 is the tenth usage of *epignosis*:

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in **knowledge** [the Greek word epignosis] after the image of him that created him.

The phrase "have put on" is translated from the Greek word *enduo* which means "clothed with" or "arrayed." It refers to the process of renewing our minds to what God has made us in Christ, with a clear and exact knowledge; a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower. We can have a full knowledge after the image of God that created the new man, that gift of holy spirit which is Christ in us the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)! The will of God is the Word of God!

In this month's teaching, we continued the work we did in the February 2022 tracking, tracing, and searching of the scriptures. We reviewed the next nine usages (9) for the Greek word *epignosis* used for our English word "knowledge and acknowledgment " from 1 Timothy 2:4. It was breathtaking and electrifying to read in God's Word these nine usages of the Greek word *epignosis* translated into our English word knowledge and acknowledgment. With this understanding, we can rightly divide the scriptures, make a distinction, and come to a decision daily that we have received a clear and exact knowledge or *epignosis* of God's Word. We must study God's Word to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

From this teaching, we have full knowledge of these nine usages of the Greek word *epignosis* used for our English word "knowledge and acknowledgement.

Father thank you for giving us a clear and exact knowledge; a knowledge that has a powerful influence on us the knower, so, that we can pray with clearness and exactness together with our brother and sisters in your household. Father, thank you, for giving to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you Father. Father, thank you for our hearts being comforted, and knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of You and Your son the Lord Jesus Christ. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

In next month's teaching we will complete our tracking, tracing, and searching of the scriptures for the last ten (10) usages of the Greek word *epignosis* used for our English word **knowledge** and **acknowledgement** from 1 Timothy 2:4:

Who [God] will have all men [peoples] to be saved, and to come unto the **knowledge** of the truth.

We love you. You're the best.

In the Lord,

Ministry of Reconciliation
Son of God through Jesus Christ
Ambassador for Christ