

God Knows You

Sermon for March 13, 2022

Scriptures: Malachi 3:13-18 and Revelation 3:1-6

Golden Verse: “The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.” (Revelation 3:5)

I know your deeds...In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, our Lord Jesus Christ sent letters to seven congregations from Asia Minor. In every letter, Jesus said: “I know. I know you. I know everything about you.”

Dear beloved, the same Lord, OUR Lord Jesus Christ, is here amongst us today with the same message to you and to me: “My child, I know you.” In this sentence, there is enormous comfort and peace. Also, there is a warning.

First of all, we have to hear this sentence with joy and thanksgiving, what God says to you and to me now: “I know you.” God knows everything about you and me. He knows what is going on in us, with us and around us. The Lord knows how we feel, our struggles and our thoughts. God knows everything about our fears, our anxieties, and our hearts’ desires. And God is always here listening to us. He puts His arms around us to protect us. When we need more encouragement, the Lord, as a loving Father, puts His arm around our shoulders and He draws us close to Him. When we fight with emotions, He is touching our faces with so much tender love to wipe our tears away. When we are distressed, He is here lifting our chins, looking deep in our eyes, telling us that we are not forgotten, and we are not alone. Moreover, in those moments when fear and anxiety, and fear for the future, would shake us, or when some illness would create some earthquakes in our lives, He is here to tell us that He is in control and He knows exactly what is going on in us and with us. He controls our future.

You can always count on God’s care because He knows you and He cares for you. “My child, I know you” – says the Lord now to you and me. Moreover, dear beloved, this has to be enough for us in every moment.

Did you have awkward moments, when you were down, and the Lord assured you that He is with you?

I know you. In Hebrews we read that *“There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account... Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:13-16). Since nothing is hidden from His sight, we should come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us be gentle and forbearing.

“I know you.” In this sentence, there is a warning as well. The Lord can see everything that we do. He sees our actions. He hears everything that we say and, also, He can see even our thoughts.

A child’s spirit can be purer and more sensitive than an adult’s spirit. Do you agree with my statement?

When I was around 8-9 years old, once a church going person, one of my relatives was mad for some reason, and in an uncontrolled moment said something bad. Immediately, I said: “How could you say something like that?” She was shocked by my question, then to cover herself she said: “Oh, I am sorry, but nobody heard that, just you”. Then I replied: “No, our Lord Jesus Christ heard that, too.”

God said to the people from Sardis, and He is saying to you and me today: *“I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.”* (Revelation 3:1)

To understand this, I will provide a few examples. These people thought that they had a reputation for being alive in faith.

- I talked once to a person, who said to me: “Reverend, I am a good Christian. I am at the service every Christmas Eve, every Easter, and sometimes I attend even the Pentecost services.”
- There was an elder, who said: “Reverend, you are new here, but you have to know that I am the best Christian in this congregation because I donate to the church X amount of money and this is how you have to look at me.”
- A minister, after delivering his sermon said: “God, you should be thankful for having such a great servant as me.”
- Once during a pulpit exchange, I asked the elders how the sermon was, and what their experiences were. A very quiet elder said: “Well, the minister went up into the pulpit with a shiny face showing a noticeable ego. The sermon did not go well, so the minister left the pulpit looking down on the aisle with

humility. Well,” the elder continued, “if he would go up to the pulpit as he came down, then he would come down as he went up”.

May the Holy Spirit help all of us to associate ourselves with at least one of these mistakes.

This is why our Lord says: *“You think that you are alive in faith, but I can see that you are dead.”* (Revelation 3:1)

Sometimes, we would think that we are great Christians because we do things for the Church, for others, and God, but it would be great to ask God about what He is thinking about our actions. Probably often, we would be surprised, seeing that our state of mind and God’s will are not lined up. God would ask us to drop our ideas about ourselves and what we would like to do, and shift our focus according to His will. If we have accepted Jesus the Christ as our Saviour, we have to understand what God wants from us, and that is more than just attending our services. That includes how we are behaving at home, how we talk with our spouses, our children, about our neighbours and even how we talk about those people who do not like us.

In this letter, our Lord Jesus Christ presents a three-step program for us today. This three-step program we have to apply individually. It is mandatory for every member.

1. “Wake up!” Rouse yourself!
2. “Strengthen what remains and is about to die!” Recover! and
3. “Remember what you received and heard!” Remember!

Dear beloved, if we would like to be a more vibrant congregation of Christ, we have to keep Christ Jesus in the very first place in our lives.

Repent. To repent means that every morning we have to start our daily journey from the cross. During the day, we have to double-check our actions if they are according to God’s will. In the evening, we have to spend time at the cross again, thanking God for the energy and wisdom the Lord gave us. And doing so God will transform us step by step. The Lord Christ command is: *“keep what you received and heard.”* (Revelation 3:3)

May the Lord help all of us to get to the point when God will declare about us that, yes, we are not only called Christians, but our actions are evidence that we have living faith proved by words and actions. Amen