

Sunday 5th July, 2026

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. 3 For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth & the mountain peaks belong to him. 5 The sea is his, for he made it & his hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Let's Pray. Sovereign Lord, what a great privilege it is to come into your presence this morning. To be able to sing to the rock of our salvation. To be able to come before you in thanksgiving and to praise you with music and song. To be able to humble ourselves in worship, to pray to our maker & to place ourselves under your sovereign care.

We admit that we don't come to you often enough, and we don't thank you enough, nor are we humble enough, dependent enough, passionate enough. Please forgive us. Forgive us because for everything we have done wrong, whether we have done or said or acted in the wrong way or failed to do, say or act in the right way, that wrongdoing meant that your Son Jesus had to die on the cross to forgive us that sin. So we thank you for Jesus. May he become more and more real to us today as we sing, listen, pray, reflect and commit this time to you now. And we ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Song – Sooner Count the Stars <https://vimeo.com/248230516>1. I could sooner count the stars2. I could sooner drink the seasThan number all Your waysThan fathom all Your loveThough I only know in partLike a never ceasing streamThat part exceeds all praiseAre mercies through Your SonAs sunlight fills the skiesThe death of Christ aloneYour goodness fills my lifeDeserves eternal songFor all Your precious giftsFor such a love as HisReceive my gratefulnessReceive my gratefulness**CHORUS**3. I could sooner turn back timeNo praise is high enoughThan turn Your heart awayNo thanks is deep enoughThough the years go fleeting byNo life is long enoughYour mercies never changeTo tell of all You've doneBefore You made the sunNo shout is loud enoughYour love was set on usNo words are strong enoughFor all Your faithfulnessNo song is sweet enoughReceive my gratefulnessTo sing Your love

Bible Reading – Deuteronomy 8:10-18 (NIV)

10 *“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*

11 Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. 12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness,

that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. 16 He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. 17 You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” 18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

Announcements

Focus for the month: Spiritual Growth. A growing Church will be filled with people who are growing in their faith. Which means our spiritual growth is important not just for ourselves but for the health of the Church. So, would you say you are currently growing in your faith? And how do you measure something like that? This week please prayerfully consider how your walk with the Lord is going and what things you could do to grow more like Jesus?

Random Reno Review. Last year we approved a loan of approx. for \$520,000 for the redevelopment. At present it looks like we will not need to borrow more than \$300,000. This is mainly due to the massive amount of volunteer labour that young and old gave us over the last 6-9 months. We are so thankful for all those who helped out in any way and this will help us pay off the loan (and the interest) much quicker than we imagined.

Save the date – ‘A Taste of Africa’. Sat 15 Aug at Charlestown Presbyterian. A night of food and entertainment brought to you by members of our church. More details to come!

School Holidays. Thanks for all do the kids church teachers that made this such a great term! Kids activity packs will be available as well as some action Bible's. Kids church will be back on the 26th of July.

Days Off. Stephen tends to take Saturdays off and Audric Tuesdays. In an emergency you can still contact our ministers but if it wait, please give them their day off and contact them on the day after!

Who do you contact if you need help or want information about

- Committee of Management Hillar Ling (Secretary)
- Eldership Issues Ross Logan (Session Clerk)

- Elvanto /RostersSam Wilson
- Pastoral CareStephen Taylor, Audric Sardjono or Jo Barlow
- Breaking the SilenceRosemary Winter
- Kids ChurchMarissa Brunton
- Young AdultsJannah Pittman
- Walking GroupsKarl Winter, Jan Budim
- Child Protection/DV IssuesRob Hearn or Jo Barlow or Cheryl Gillard
- IMPACT YouthJannah Pittman
- SPARKLERS PlaygroupMarissa Brunton
- Church BulletinFelicity Wong
- Home GroupsStephen Taylor

Vanuatu Mission. Interested in going on a two-week mission trip to Vanuatu in January 2027? If so Stephen T and Cheryl G are taking applications in the next month or two. If you want some more details just ask either one of them in the next couple of weeks.

Song – Hymn of the Ages <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBBSQDRInQ4>

1. All history shall bow before Your throne
Time and space on bended knee shall come
Though kingdoms pass away, Your majesty remains
How great You are, how great must be Your song

1. The Alpha and Omega without end
The everlasting makes this wretch His friend
The angels stand in awe, this beggar heart responds
How great You are, how great must be Your song

Chorus: You're the hymn of the ages
The hope of all the world
You carried our redemption on Your shoulders
You're the anthem of salvation
Jesus, Lord of Lords
Your legacy will echo through the ages

1. Oh, for a countless choir in my lungs
To sing Your praises with a thousand tongues
The purpose in my days, is ever to proclaim
How great You are, and how great must be Your song

Chorus

Bridge: We raise the never-ending song
The greatest song we've ever known
The song of angels, the hymn of ages
Holy is the Lord (Repeat bridge)

Chorus

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for Algeria (Population 47 million, Christians 156,000). Most of Algeria's churches are closed, depriving believers of community and support. Pray that the Christians who have lost their places of worship amidst all the church closures will be able to find fellowship. Ask God to protect Christians who have converted from Islam and those who shared the gospel with them. Pray that church leaders who are facing court cases will be acquitted and able to continue to minister without harassment.

Pray for the families of young children in our Church. We want thank God for the provision of children. We pray for parents to raise their children in the Lord in both word and example. We pray for priorities when there are so many activities and programmes that families can be involved in. We pray that they will all grow up to be followers of Jesus.

Pray for the people of Venezuela after last week's massive earthquakes. God, protect and comfort the people of La Guaira, Caracas, Aragua, Miranda, and Yaracuy. Bring order to the recovery efforts, restore communication networks, and provide immediate shelter and clean water to the millions exposed to this trauma. Comfort the families of the thousands of **confirmed victims**. Give them peace in their immense grief and provide a strong support system as they face the long road of rebuilding.

Pray for Hamilton Presbyterian. Praise the Lord for the growth in numbers (from 25 to 100 in the last few years) and enthusiasm in the Church. Pray for decisions to be made next Sunday as to what the future of the leadership of the Church should look like as the congregation votes for a new elder and discusses whether to become fully independent from us as a Church. Pray for David Robertsons evangelistic ministry (Beauty for Ashes) that is on Rhema radio each Thursday 9pm.

Bible Reading – 2 Peter 1:1-21 (NIV)

*Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:***2** Grace and peace be yours in abundance

*through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.***3** His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7** and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. **8** For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.**10** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, **11** and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**12** So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. **13** I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, **14** because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. **15** And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. **16** For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." **18** We

ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. 19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Sermon: The Knowledge of God (Dave W)

Some of you may already know this about me but I really love going to pub trivia nights. But I've noticed that not all trivia competitions are the same. Some are a lot of fun and some not so much. You see you want the questions to be tricky so that you can look clever in front of your friends if you know the answer, but not so obscure that your friends think that there is something a bit wrong with you if you know the answer.

For example knowing the answer to who was the second prime minister of Australia – well done, good knowledge of Australian history. Who was the second king of Albania? Know the answer to this one and your friends start to look at you a bit strangely. Unless of course you are at a trivia night sponsored by the Newcastle Albanian society in which case people might be shocked that you didn't know who was the second king of Albania. So there can be some element of personal preference as to what is important and unimportant knowledge. I'm not a big fan of rugby league so I hate it when there are a whole lot of questions along the lines of who won the rugby league grand final in 1974 or was was Crusher Cleal's first name. Who cares I have been tempted to yell out. On the other hand there is knowledge that is considered crucial for everyone. Knowledge of which side of the road to drive on in Australia, knowledge of what number to dial in the event of an emergency, knowledge of how to load your posts on to instagram are all considered essential knowledge to being a functioning member of Australian society.

Now you would **think** that knowledge of God should fall into the essential knowledge category but unfortunately in Australian society at least, there is kind of a shared understanding that it is in the personal preference category. And this is surely quite strange as you would think that the question is there a God and if there is can we have knowledge of that God would be the most important question anyone can ask. As Christians we make some fairly bold and often unpopular claims about knowing God but what does that actually mean?

Slide 2

This morning I want to have a look at what it means to have the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Chapter 1 of 2 Peter has a lot to say about the knowledge of God and so I want to look at 3 key points. The nature of knowledge of God, the purpose of knowledge of God, and finally how to deal with threats to the knowledge of God.

Slide 3

In 2 Peter chapter 1 we read Simon Peter a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours. This opening verse is packed with meaning. Firstly it shows us that knowledge of God is all to do with the person of Jesus who is

the Christ. Christ is not the surname of Jesus. Jesus is not the son of Mary and Joseph Christ he is Jesus **the** Christ. Which is the Greek word for Messiah meaning the anointed one. The messiah or anointed one was in the old testament the king who would rescue his people.

But Jesus is not just a great king. Peter describes him as our God and saviour and summarises his perfect life as well as his death and resurrection as *the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ*. This is why Peter describes himself as a servant (the word here is actually the word for slave but the translators have been a bit squeamish about using the word slave – come and talk to me afterwards if you want to talk about why this might be the case) But back to the passage it's Peter a slave of Jesus Christ, as that is the only appropriate response to someone who has the status of God himself, but he is also an apostle or messenger of Jesus Christ as the good news about Jesus Christ needs to be heard by all people.

But notice the phrase *have received a faith as precious as ours*. It's easy to think isn't it that Peter and the other disciples who had lived with, travelled with, listened to Jesus would have had a stronger faith than it's possible for us to have. But this isn't the case. Peter assures his readers that **their** faith and trust in Jesus that arises out of **their** knowledge of Jesus is just as precious as the faith of the apostles. And this is a major theme of chapter one. Peter is concerned to ensure that the knowledge of Jesus will be preserved once he has died, which he anticipates will be soon. We will come back to that point in a moment as to why **our** faith is as precious as that of Peter and the apostles but before I go on I would like to make final point about our faith in God and Jesus and that is our faith is received not earned.

Some types of knowledge are earned through hard work and application but our knowledge of God is a gift to be received. God has revealed himself to us through his Son Jesus and the reason we have a knowledge of God and Jesus is not because we were somehow smarter or wiser than people around us who do not know God. Our faith has to be received not earned and this should not only make us very humble in our dealings with non Christians, but also make us keen whenever we can to be part of the process of God revealing himself to others.

Slide 4

So knowledge of God is completely tied up in the person of Jesus but what is the **purpose** of knowing God through Jesus? There are two purposes. Firstly a change in status before God and a change in us. Verse 2 says that grace and peace in abundance can be obtained through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Knowing Jesus.

Slide 5

Having a relationship with Jesus is the ultimate admission ticket. Think of a time when you've been able to get into an exclusive club or fancy restaurant not because of who you are but because of who your friend was. Picture yourself outside in the cold with all the beautiful people being waved in and there is not the remotest chance that you will be allowed in by the two large threatening former rugby league players at the doorway. Until that is your friend arrives and with a wave of the hand & simply saying it's ok Crusher, Bruiser. They're with me. And then whoosh you're in. Not because of who **you** are but who your **friend** is.

Slide 6

In verses 2 to 6 we can see that the reason we were not able to participate in the divine nature, that is we were not able to have a right relationship with the God who made the universe is because we were caught up in the corruption of the world around us. Notice how in verse 4 it says that in order to participate in the divine nature we needed to **escape** the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. A holy and perfect God cannot allow us to approach him unless we are spoken for by someone who called us by **his** own glory and goodness. If we really know Jesus then we know that it is only because of **his** glory and goodness that we can have peace with God right now because of pure grace. What's more, knowing Jesus means not only do we enjoy grace and peace with God **now**. Jesus has also given us very great and precious promises that we will be able to live with him forever. Just pause and reflect on that for a moment.

Slide 7

Knowledge of Jesus enables us to participate in the divine nature. What does that mean? Does it mean that we will lose our individuality as Eastern religions believe and become like a drop of water in the ocean. Or does it mean like the Mormons and the some New Age practitioners believe that we will become Gods? An analogy is helpful here. When you put an iron in a hot fire over time it takes on the characteristics of the fire, its light, warmth and heat. It still remains iron but as long as it remains in the fire it participates in the nature of the fire.

Slide 8

In addition to a change in status before God that comes from the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, there is a second purpose of having a knowledge of God and that is there is a change in us. When we come to know God through Jesus there is a change of status from being enemies of God to being children of God. But God has bigger plans for us. He wants us to change in ourselves and become more like Jesus over time. In many ways this isn't a second purpose at all but more of a flow on from the first point.

Notice how in verse 5 it says *for this very reason*. That is as our change in status before God enables us to become participants in the divine nature, we should naturally over time take on the characteristics of the divine nature just like the irons in the fire. The change in us **flows on** from our change in status. So when people say things like so if I get into heaven purely through what Jesus has done and nothing to do with what I have done then why does it matter how I live then they haven't understood this link between change in status and the change in us.

In Romans chapter 6 Paul writes what shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means. Our knowledge of God is a relationship and not just a series of propositional statements. If we have really understood the love Jesus showed us by dying on the cross then how can we respond to this with anything but gratitude. To ask yourself what is the minimum I need to do to stay in a relationship with Jesus is a bit like saying what is the minimum I have to do to stay married to my wife. Or those of you who are married, and make sure you have friends with a spare bedroom before trying this, just try saying to your spouse - darling I've been thinking what is the minimum I need to do so you won't divorce me?

Slide 9

So In verse 3 it says that everything we need to live a godly life can come from the knowledge of him, that is Jesus. This isn't a contradiction to the doctrine that we have been saved by grace. When we realize that our relationship with Jesus is completely due to grace then that in fact **liberates** us to live godly lives, knowing full well that we can never obtain perfection but we simply want to be like Jesus – to love what he loves, to love who he loves, to want to be good because he is good and to realise that the greatest good we can aspire to in our lives is, as is written in Romans, chapter 8 to be conformed to the image of the son.

Slide 10

Possessing the virtues described in verses 5 to 7 of faith, goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love in increasing measure are all evidence that we have understood the second purpose of knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That we have really got it.

Slide 11

There has been some debate about whether this list of virtues is a baking recipe or a soup recipe. When you make a soup you kind of just bung all the ingredients into together at the same time. They all have to be there but not in any particular sequence. When you bake you need to follow a procedure and do one thing after another. That is you can't move on to the step 3 until you've completed step 2. As I said there is debate but I think the main point is not the sequence but the fact that they all have to be there. Maybe mutual affection and love do come after self-control and perseverance but what I don't think you can do is excuse your lack of mutual affection and love by saying that you have not yet graduated from the self-control and perseverance stages. So I think its probably a combination of both models. On the right you can see that all of these virtues need to feed into our faith. On the left, however, you can see there is a certain hierarchy to the virtues with love being the pinnacle. But if its not supported by the others then love becomes ineffective.

Slide 12

I won't go through the whole list, but since we have been talking about knowledge of God lets have a closer look at something that seems a bit strange. Verse 2 tells us to add knowledge to our faith so that in verse 8 we can be kept from being ineffective and productive in our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. So how can it help to add knowledge to your knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord? In the Greek the word translated as knowledge in verses 2 and 3 and 8 is epignosis whereas the word translated as knowledge in verse 5 is gnosis. Why does this matter? Well epignosis refers to a deeper more relational type of knowledge where you can be said to truly know someone, whereas gnosis refers to knowing about things, facts and figures if you like. But it is possible to improve your epignosis of someone by paying attention the gnosis of the person. For gnosis to support epignosis.

Slide 13

My wife for example is is just over 5 feet 2 inches in the old scale and was born in New Zealand. These are facts are example of gnosis, knowledge **about** my wife. However, I would do well to pay attention to these examples of gnosis when it comes to her birthday and consider whether or not to buy her a wallabies rugby jersey in size XXXL. So with God paying attention to facts about Him, in particular the ones he reveals about himself in the bible, diligently trying to learn more and more about the gnosis aspects of God can help improve our epignosis of God. Particularly when this is combined with the other virtues of goodness, self control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love.

Slide 14

But there is a problem that we all face and that is that we all have a tendency to forget important things about ourselves and about God. This is my third point concerning threats to the knowledge of God. Over time there is a tendency for all of us to forget about God and what he has done for us. To forget how bad we were before we knew Jesus and to forget what had to be done to cleanse us from our sins. This has been the case for God's people throughout history. In Deuteronomy chapter 8 we see the warning to God's people who had been rescued from Egypt and about to be brought in to the promised land. There are a lot of parallels here with the 2 Peter passage. Moses like Peter knew he was about to die and wanted to make sure that the knowledge of God would be maintained by the people of Israel.

Slide 15

*When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. **11** Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. **12** Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, **13** and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, **14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, (and then there is a list of all the things God did for Israel in getting them from Egypt to the promised land and then it goes on) **17** You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." **18** But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.*

Why did the people of Israel have so many different religious festivals, sacrifices that needed to be done again and again? Why? Because they would forget. They needed to be constantly reminded about where they had come from and what God had done for them. Has anyone ever complained about church in that they are always going on about the gospel. Yes Yes. I've got it Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He was raised on the third day and ascended into heaven. Etc etc etc. I've got all that. Why are we focusing on the building blocks all the time. Shouldn't we move on from this? But have you got it or has your relationship with God started to shift from knowing God to be merely knowing about God. If we really had a deep relational epignossiis type understanding of God then wouldn't we be showing **more** goodness, be **growing** in your knowledge about God, having **more** self control, **more** perseverance, **more** our, **more** mutual affection and **more** love?

Slide 16

Look at all the sections of this passage to do with remembering

Verse 9 **forgetting** that they have been cleansed from their past sins

Verse 12 So I will always **remind** you of these things

Verse 13 I think it's right to **refresh your memory**. In other translations it says stir **you up by way of reminder**. Refresh your memory does sound a bit weak. Oh that's right Jesus is the Son of God silly me I forgot. But instead stir you up by way of reminder so it should be more of a THAT'S RIGHT! Jesus **is** the Christ and Jesus **is** the Son of God and to my shame I haven't been living as though this is true. Please forgive me Lord

Verse 15 And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

Slide 17

But at the end of the day all this talk of knowledge of God and why we must always remind ourselves of the gospel message is only useful if the gospel message is true. And by this I mean **actually** true and not just in a maybe true for you but not true for me. Remember here that when Peter was writing this letter he was fully aware that he was soon going to be put to death. According to early church history he was crucified upside down. For me this has always been one of the most convincing arguments for the truth of the gospel. Something convinced a group of monotheistic Jews that the person Jesus of Nazareth was not only a great teacher, they were convinced that Jesus was God himself and worthy of worship. The disciples in the gospels were shown to be a clueless rabble. But after the resurrection of Jesus they became fearless messengers who were willing to die for their message that Jesus was the Christ and that he was calling everyone to repent and believe in Him.

Verse 16. *For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. He received honour and glory from God the father when the voice came to him from with the majestic glory saying this is my son whom I love with him I am well pleased. We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*” And the final piece of evidence is the bible itself.

Slide 18

Verse 19

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable and you will do well to pay attention to it as to a light shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Is that how I read my bible? Do I pay attention to it as to a light shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in my heart? Every part of the bible is about Jesus in one way or another. Therefore as we read our bibles are we moved? Does it inspire us to want to be more like Jesus and to add to our faith in Him goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. Reading God’s word is meant to be transformative and not merely informative. So let me ask you this morning do you know about Jesus or do you know Jesus. Do you want to keep your knowledge of Jesus to yourself or do you urgently want to share this knowledge with others? Do you realise that knowing Jesus and trusting in his promises enables you to participate in the divine nature? Knowledge of God is too important to be left in the personal preference category of pub trivia knowledge. It is literally a matter of eternal life or death. And if you are here this morning and you are unsure whether what I have been saying is true then don’t just take my word for it. Investigate it for yourself. Start by reading Mark’s gospel which describes the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth. Then read the Acts of the apostles where you can see the transformation of the disciples of Jesus in response to his resurrection.

Even though its 2000 years since Jesus walked on this earth it is still possible to know him and through Him have knowledge of God and have a faith as precious as the first apostles. That is to experience grace and peace in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Let's pray. Father God. *Thanks that you have revealed knowledge of yourself through the life death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ Your son. Thanks that through our knowledge of Jesus we have a changed status before you and that you will over time change us to become more like Jesus. Forgive us for the times we forget what we were and what you have done for us. Help us to constantly remember the truths of the gospel and may that spur us on to become more and more like Jesus and we pray these things in his precious name. amen*

Song – There is one gospel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GZuSivURPk>

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there, where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour, I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine!
For He has promised I, too, will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Benediction. *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7** and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. **8** For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-8)*