

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

## **WHOM YOU MUST KNOW**

### **John 17:3**

Note the bulletin insert with information about the great Reformation of the church in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Note the reference at the bottom to the “solas” – *sola fide* (faith alone), *sola Christe* (Christ alone), *sola gratia* (grace alone), AND *sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone).

These were rallying cries of the Reformation – and should still be precious and foundational for us & for our church. We will look in particular in the next two weeks at *sola Scriptura*.

But this morning we need to see, of *first* importance, the vital connection between the Scriptures and Jesus Christ – vital for your salvation and growth in faith & vital for the health and testimony of the church.

### **1. You must know Jesus Christ & God the Father - John 17:3**

John 17: We are privileged to listen in to the prayer of the eternal Son to His eternal Father – as the Son reviews His mission on earth in anticipation of His approaching “hour” of suffering & glory.

The Father gave His Son authority over all humanity

& He gave Him people (see Jn.6:37-39) –

that He may give them eternal life. That is why He came.

What this implies about OUR condition and need (dead in sin & unbelief).

What Jesus did to give life to dead sinners: died on the cross & rose again.

What is necessary for us to do?

“***This*** is eternal life, that they may ***know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent***” (vs.3).

What does this mean? More than factual knowledge about Jesus,

but living, relationship knowledge – trust, surrender, communion...

### **2. You must receive & believe the Bible as the very Word of God to know Jesus, the living Word.**

Problem: How can WE know what is true about Jesus,

so that we can truly know the true Jesus?

There are many man-made false Christs and “plastic Jesuses.”

This is why it is so important to understand WHAT the Bible is:

God’s Word of truth revealing Him who IS Truth.

Listen to the testimony of the Apostles – eyewitnesses to Jesus:

John 1:14, 2:11, ... 20:30,31. 1 John 1:1-4.

Hear the promise of Jesus to send the Spirit of *truth*: John 14:26, 15:26f,

Hence, the assertion of Peter, 2 Peter 1:16.

The character of Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16 & 15;

& the Apostle Paul’s admonition: Colossians 3:16 -

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly ...”

= the Word that reveals Christ to us, because it is

the Word that comes from Christ to us by the Spirit.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles & Prophets have borne faithful &

true witness to Christ, by which you may know Him & have eternal life.