

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

June 22, 2025

"But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself;

The LORD hears when I call to Him. Tremble, and do not sin;

Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still." – Psalm 4:3-4



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“✠” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Job 42:1-6

Leader: Then Job answered the LORD and said,

People: I know that You can do all things,

Leader: And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

People: Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?

Leader: Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand,

People: Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

Leader: Hear, now, and I will speak;

People: I will ask You, and You instruct me.

Leader: I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;

People: But now my eye sees You;

Leader: Therefore I retract,

People: And I repent in dust and ashes.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – John 17:1-4

***Hymn #53** – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Scripture Reading – Psalm 19

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #103A** – “O Bless the LORD, My Soul” (see insert)

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism, Q#2,6

Leader:	Q#2: How does it appear that there is a God?	
People:	The very light of nature in man,	Rom 1:19-20
Leader:	And the works of God, declare plainly	Ps 19:1-3
People:	That there is a God;	Acts 17:28
Leader:	But his word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually	1Cor 2:9-10 2Tim 3:15-17
People:	Reveal Him unto men for their salvation.	Is 59:21
Leader:	Q#6: What do the scriptures make known of God?	
People:	The scriptures make known what God is,	Heb 11:6
Leader:	The persons in the Godhead, His decrees,	1John 5:7; Acts 15:14-15,18
People:	And the execution of His decrees.	Acts 4:27-28

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 2:12b

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Knowing God”

(A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8)

***Hymn #38** – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- For July & August Lord's Worship starts at 9:30 PM.
There will be no Sunday School, however, there will be fellowship afterwards.
- The Deacon's Fund is low, additional contributions would be helpful.

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday Study** is done for the summer. **Wednesday Study** will meet this week and then be done.
- **Pool Party/Picnic** to be held on **Saturday, July 19th** at the Gabelmanns, 101 Wallens St., Winsted, beginning at **noon**. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and an ice cream bar will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. Bring your swimsuits if you wish to enjoy the pool. This will be held rain or shine as we are not able to plan for a rain date this year. Mark your calendars!

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM 10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	Sunday School Worship (Lord's Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Study [<i>Returns in September</i>]
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:30 – 8:00 PM 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Study (biblical geography) at Pastor Doug's house Gen Alpha Club (Tiny Theologians) - 2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Friday</i>	6:30 - ??? PM	Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug's house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays)
<i>Saturday</i>	morning	Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC's Webpage:	TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC's Facebook Page:	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC's Youtube Channel:	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
Pastor Doug's	youtube.com/simplyreformed
Youtube Channels:	youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

1Samuel 2:12

“Knowing God”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

June 22, 2025

Introduction

- 1) We are going through 1Samuel but today I would like to take a tangent and do a topical study of one key point mentioned in 1Samuel 2:12.
 - a) We read in 1Samuel 2:12 - “*Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they did not know the LORD*”

b) So, the generally godly high priest Eli had two sons (Hophni & Phinehas), who were priests too. However, they were “worthless men” (literally sons of the devil) because they did not know God.

1Sam 1:3

1Sam 2:34ff

1Sam 4:4ff

2) Today, I want to ponder “**knowing God**.”¹

a) This seems like a simple statement.

b) It is not; It is rather quite deep and profound, and requires careful thinking.

3) To illustrate the depth of the question, compare two biblical concepts:

a) We read throughout the Bible there are people who do not know God.²

i) Eli’s sons from today’s sermon text.

ii) Think of Pharaoh during the Exodus said, “*Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go.*” – Exodus 5:2b

iii) Or about the Northern Jewish Kingdom when the prophet Hosea proclaimed God’s word that, “*I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me; For now, O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself. Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, and they do not know the LORD.*” – Hosea 5:3-4

b) Yet we read throughout the Bible that everyone, on some level, knows God.

Ps 19:1-4; Eccl 3:11; Is 40:21

John 1:9; Acts 14:16-17; 17:22-27

Rom 1:18-21; 2:14-15

c) Contradiction?

i) Not at all. However, it gets at the biblical concept of knowledge which is much deeper than just data collection.

ii) To give one example, Ecclesiastes 3:11 – “*He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.*”

- Do you hear the tension in this text from Ecclesiastes?

- In our inner being (i.e. “*their heart*”) God has set eternity.

- Yet man lacks knowledge (“*man will not find out*”) on some level.

Biblical Knowing

1) We need first to define “knowing” because our world has taught us some very irrational and unbiblical things about that word.

2) Our world thinks knowledge is neutral, based on simply knowing of brute facts.

a) We have been *indoctrinated* by the world to think “good” teaching is value neutral: Simply giving information which is the opposite of “dogma.”

i) This is “***the myth of neutrality***.”

ii) One of the greatest, and currently most successful, deceptions of Satan.

b) If you look at the original meaning of the word “to teach” it means to “indoctrinate.”

c) All teaching, all knowledge, is about indoctrination. Whether for good or evil.

¹ For a great book on this see J.I. Packer’s classic Knowing God.

² Ex 5:2; Judg 2:10; 1Sam 2:12; Job 18:21; Ps 79:6; Eccl 3:11; Jer 9:3,6; 10:25; Hos 4:1; 5:4; Micah 4:12; John 8:19; 8:55; 14:7,9; 15:21; 16:3; 17:25; Rom 10:3; 1Cor 1:21; Gal 4:8-9; 1Thes 4:5; 2Thes 1:8; Titus 1:16; 1John 2:4-5; 4:8.

- i) For example, mathematics only exists because God exists.
 - ii) The number “one” exists not because it is a social construct created by humans.
 - As if the concept of “one”, like there is only one sun in this solar system, can only exist if human minds exist. That is crazy. If there are no human minds then it is still true there is only one sun in this solar system.
 - All truth exists because truth is a mere reflection of God’s character and mind.
 - Why is stealing wrong? Because God is not a thief.
 - Why does the concept of “one” exist? Because God is one. Just like God is also many (three in one) and infinite.
 - iii) To teach mathematics (maybe the most pure form of the physical sciences) with no reference to God is to engage immoral, and irrational, indoctrination. Because you cannot justify the foundational logical rules of mathematics in an atheistic world view but you can in a Christian one.
- 3) Biblically, the concept of “knowing” is not merely intellectual, just about data collection, it is about **relational**, **covenantal** and **intimate** knowing of that information.
- a) The best example of this is the crude, though very accurate phrase: *“he knew her in the biblical sense.”*
 - i) Meaning: A man had physical relations with a woman.
 - ii) Ever wonder why such a crass phrase uses the word “biblical”?
 - iii) Because it gets at the biblical understanding of knowledge.
 - It is not just about information.
 - It is about becoming intimate with what you are knowing.
 - It will affect you and there will be consequences.
 - It affects one’s covenant status: Whether in a marriage, as a citizen, and especially a member of Christ’s Kingdom.
 - b) Or think of the phrases, *“I can’t unsee that”* or *“that’s now burned into my brain”*.
- 4) This helps to explain “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” back in Genesis 2:9,17; 3:1ff
- a) The reason God commanded Adam not to eat from the tree is not out of some fear that Adam would become like God and overthrow the Almighty, that is just silly.
 - b) It’s because Adam will become intimate with that knowledge, causing great evil.
 - c) Adam no longer simply knows God perfectly after eating the fruit.
 - i) Adam now realizes there is something different between good and evil because he has become tainted.
 - ii) If you only know light you can’t comprehend darkness and have no word for light, because the light just is.
 - d) Remember what happens in the fall narrative in Genesis 3:10ff.
 - i) Adam hides himself from God because he now understands he is naked.
 - He now understands shame and God’s holiness because he now knows there is good and evil.
 - He had no shame because he was innocent, without sin.
 - He probably had no word for holiness because he knew only holiness.
 - This is more than data, it is knowledge that is personal, intimate, and it certainly is going to affect his covenantal status with God!
 - ii) Note God’s question of Adam: *“Who told you that you were naked?”* – Gen 3:11

- iii) What is Adam's response? To blame Eve and God.
 - Why? Because he is fallen.
 - He now knows the difference and acts differently because of that corruption.
- 5) That is why throughout the Bible the sin of idolatry is frequently compared with (spiritual) adultery.
 - a) Again, remember Hosea 5:3-4, that we just read.
 - b) That is why Eli's sons "don't know God."
 - i) They might have actually agreed that God exists simply going on the data.
 - ii) However, they are defilers, fornicators, thieves and rebels, and thus do not know the Lord. 1Sam 2:13-17
1Sam 2:22-23
- 6) So, when the Bible says someone doesn't "know God" it is referring to their relational, covenantal and intimate standing with the Almighty.
 - a) The ungodly's relationship with God is that they are rebels, children of Satan, and not God's adopted children in Christ.
 - b) The ungodly are outside of Christ's covenant because they are enemies of God and not the bride of Christ.
 - c) The ungodly are spiritually dead and have no intimacy, no life, in Christ.

The Noetic Effect of Sin

- 1) You might ask: "The ungodly have no knowledge of God whatsoever?"
 - a) In that relational, covenantal and intimate sense, no.
 - b) However, they do have some knowledge.
 - c) James 2:19 – "*You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.*"
- 2) Everyone on some level has knowledge of God because mankind was made in the image of God. As R.C. Sproul put it, enough knowledge of God gets in to damn us but not enough to save us.
 - a) All of humanity by their fallen nature is dead in sin, a child of Satan, and an enemy of God. Eph 2:1-3
 - b) The problem with the ungodly is not that they lack evidence about God's existence, the problem is that they are delusional because they hate God.
- 4) Romans 1:18-22 – "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools*"
 - a) God gives general revelation about Himself to all humanity.
 - i) As Rich read in Psalm 19:1-6 this is **General** or **Natural Revelation**.
 - ii) If you look at the things a person has made you can learn a lot about them, so too with the Creator of all things.
 - iii) To look at the creation and think it is just here randomly is delusional.

- b) Everyone, on some level, knows God exists.
 - c) This knowledge is always creeping out of unbelievers because they are fighting against their very nature of being in the image of God, which is foolish.
 - i) You see it when a thief complains that someone stole from them.
 - ii) Or when the secularist boldly proclaims “there is no truth” not realizing that statement is literally a truth claim.
 - iii) Or when the atheist claims “the God of Scripture is evil” and then says there is no such thing as evil because it is just a social construct.
 - d) If an atheist demands you give proof of God’s existence tell them he or she (the atheist) is the proof.
 - i) They want to claim there are no universals above themselves (i.e. logic, morality, justice, beauty, etc.), those things that can only exist because they reflect God’s attributes, yet they can’t live without them.
 - ii) In order to function they have to on some level, on occasion, live like a Christian all the while denying Christ.
 - iii) Because they are poachers on Royal Land.
- 5) Yet God, in His mercy, has spoken to us directly.
- a) This is called **Special Revelation** – Where God directly speaks to us, as Rich read in Psalm 19:7-14.
 - b) We find this in Scripture where we learn things about God we wouldn’t naturally know.
 - i) Through General Revelation we know God exists.
 - ii) But only through Special Revelation do we learn that God is Triune.
- 6) The Special Revelation of the Gospel, however, only becomes true knowledge (relational, covenantal & intimate) solely by a powerful act of God’s grace by Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- a) Thus, the term “born again” where God makes a dead sinner spiritually causing them to turn away from sin, Satan, the world and alive themselves and to trust in Christ and thus become justified and adopted in Christ, giving them new life in the Holy Spirit.
 - b) As Ezekiel prophesied about the New Covenant in the Old Testament: “*And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.*” – Ezekiel 11:19-20
 - c) Thus, we are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone.³
- 7) This knowing is of God, and by God, and is relational, covenantal and intimate.
- a) If idolatry is spiritual adultery, then what is the godly opposite?
 - i) That we are a faithful, humble, obedient and spiritual chaste people.

³ Gen 15:6; Ps 143:2; Is 43:7; 46:13; 53:10-12; Hab 2:4; Matt 16:16-17; Mark 10:52; 16:16; John 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:28-29; 8:24; Acts 8:22; 10:43; 13:39; 14:6; 15:10-11; 16:14,31; Rom 1:16-17; 3:20-28; 4:3-5; 5:1; 9:30; 10:4-6,9; 11:6; Gal 2:16,21; 3:5-6,11,14,22-25; 5:4; Eph 1:5-8,13; 2:8-9; Phil 1:29; 3:4-11; 1Tim 1:16; 2Tim 1:9; 2:25; Titus 3:4-7; Heb 10:38; 11:7,38; 12:2; 1Pet 1:5,21; 1John 5:1,13.

- ii) That is why throughout the Bible faithfulness is described in marital terms – that we are the Bride of Christ.
- iii) There is a whole book in the Bible about this: The Song of Songs.
- b) If fallen man is by his fallen nature dead in sin, a child of Satan and an enemy of God, then what is the godly opposite?
 - i) That we have been made alive.
 - ii) That we are now God's beloved adopted children.
 - iii) That we have been fully reconciled to God.
- c) The more you embrace the reality of the problem (sin), the more sweet is the solution.

Faith, Hope & Love

- 1) 1Corinthians 3:1-2 - *"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing."*
 - a) "Tongues" and "prophecy" at the very least refer to receiving knowledge according to the Word of God.
 - i) We don't want to get distracted by the tongues & prophecy debates. (Have they ceased? What are they exactly?, etc.)
 - ii) Of course, the final authority is Scripture, the written Word of God.
 - iii) In the broad sense prophecy can be seen as biblical preaching.
 - iv) While tongues in Acts is tied to prayer and might be related to pronouncing judgment on the unbeliever. Is 28:11ff
1Cor 14:21-22
 - b) Paul's overall point is clear, that if you proclaim even the greatest mysteries of the faith and do not have godly (*agape*) love, it is useless.
 - i) This love is not about modern sentimental feelings.
 - ii) This is divine love, called *agape* love and it is *"to will the others good according to God's Law by the Holy Spirit through Christ."*
 - To love God, His People and all our neighbors, even our enemies.
 - This love is defined famously in 1Cor 13:4-8a
- 2) Paul then writes - *"Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away."* - 1Cor 13:8
 - a) Paul is now speaking about the perfections of heaven.
 - b) He is *not* saying there is no knowledge in heaven.
 - c) The knowledge here that is done away with refers back to prophecy and tongues.
 - d) We don't need sermons, studies, tongues or even prophecy in heaven.
- 3) Paul then explains this change of knowledge between here and there.
 - a) 1Corinthians 13:9-12 – *"For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known."*

- b) In this life we Christians know in part and we prophesy (proclaim and receive God's word) in part.
 - i) Yes, we have been regenerated, redeemed and have life in the Spirit.
 - ii) But we still wrestle with the old man of sin, we are still in these bodies of death, thus, our knowledge is far from perfect.
 - c) The "perfect" here refers to Christ, in two ways.
 - i) Regeneration when we first become Christians in this life.
 - We put away, and continue to put away the silly childish things of the world.
 - As we grow in sanctification we will reason better, we become more mature.
 - ii) Glorification when we go into the next life.
 - Where we will become perfectly mature.
 - Keep on reading.
 - d) In this life, even those with the strongest faith in Christ still only "*see in a mirror dimly.*"
 - i) The greatest moments of insight, of feelings that God is close, or just simply joy, are minuscule to what awaits the saints in glories of heaven.
 - ii) The reason one desires heaven, however, is to be with God, the source of all joy.
 - To be made perfect so that we can actually stand in His presence.
 - To be "face to face" with Him.
 - Since nothing fallen can withstand His holiness, yet we are now perfect.
 - iii) "*But then (in heaven) I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*" – 1Corinthians 13:12b
 - This is not mere data.
 - This is knowledge is relational, covenantal, and intimate.
- 4) But what should we do right now, as we await heaven?
- a) 1Corinthians 13:13 – "*But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*"
 - b) Biblical, godly faith, is knowledge, assent/agreement, and daily willful trust in Christ. (Note there is knowledge! Plus more.)
 - c) From this trusting comes hope in Christ – assurance of what awaits us.
 - d) Faith and hope will produce action, the greatest of all virtues: Love.
 - i) Love is "*to will the others good according to God's Law by the Holy Spirit through Christ.*"
 - ii) The "other" is first God then our neighbor.
 - iii) Our neighbor is first the saints, then our family, then those around us, then all mankind – even our enemies.