

2. The knowledge of God

a. The meaning of knowledge

(1) According to *Webster's New World Dictionary*

Knowledge 1. the act, fact, or state of knowing; specif. a) of acquaintance or familiarity (with a fact, place, etc. b) awareness c) understanding 2. acquaintance with facts; range of information, awareness, or understanding 3. all that has been perceived or grasped by the mind; learning; enlightenment 4. the body of facts, principles, etc. accumulated by mankind

(2) According to Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology* (Washington: Scribner, 1871), Volume One, p. 393:

By knowledge is meant the intellectual apprehension of truth. It presupposes a subject and object; an intelligent subject that apprehends, and something true that is apprehended.

Knowledge is apprehension of truth, acquaintance with fact, recognition of information as factual, personal or factual familiarity with a person

b. The content and extent of God's knowledge

Charles Hodge states:

This knowledge of God is not only all-comprehending, but it is intuitive and immutable. He knows all things as they are: being as being, phenomena as phenomena, the possible as possible, the actual as actual, the necessary as necessary, the free as free, the past as past, the present as present, the future as future. Although all things are ever present in his view, yet He sees them as successive in time. The vast procession of events, thoughts, feelings, and acts, stands open to his view.

This infinite knowledge of God is not only clearly and constantly asserted in Scripture, but is also obviously included in the idea of an absolutely perfect being. Such a being cannot be ignorant of anything; his knowledge can neither be increased nor diminished. The omniscience of God follows also from his omnipresence. As God fills heaven and earth, all things are transacted in his presence. He knows our thoughts far better than they are known to ourselves. This plenitude of divine knowledge is taken for granted in all acts of worship. We pray to a God who, we believe, knows our state and wants, who hears what we say, and