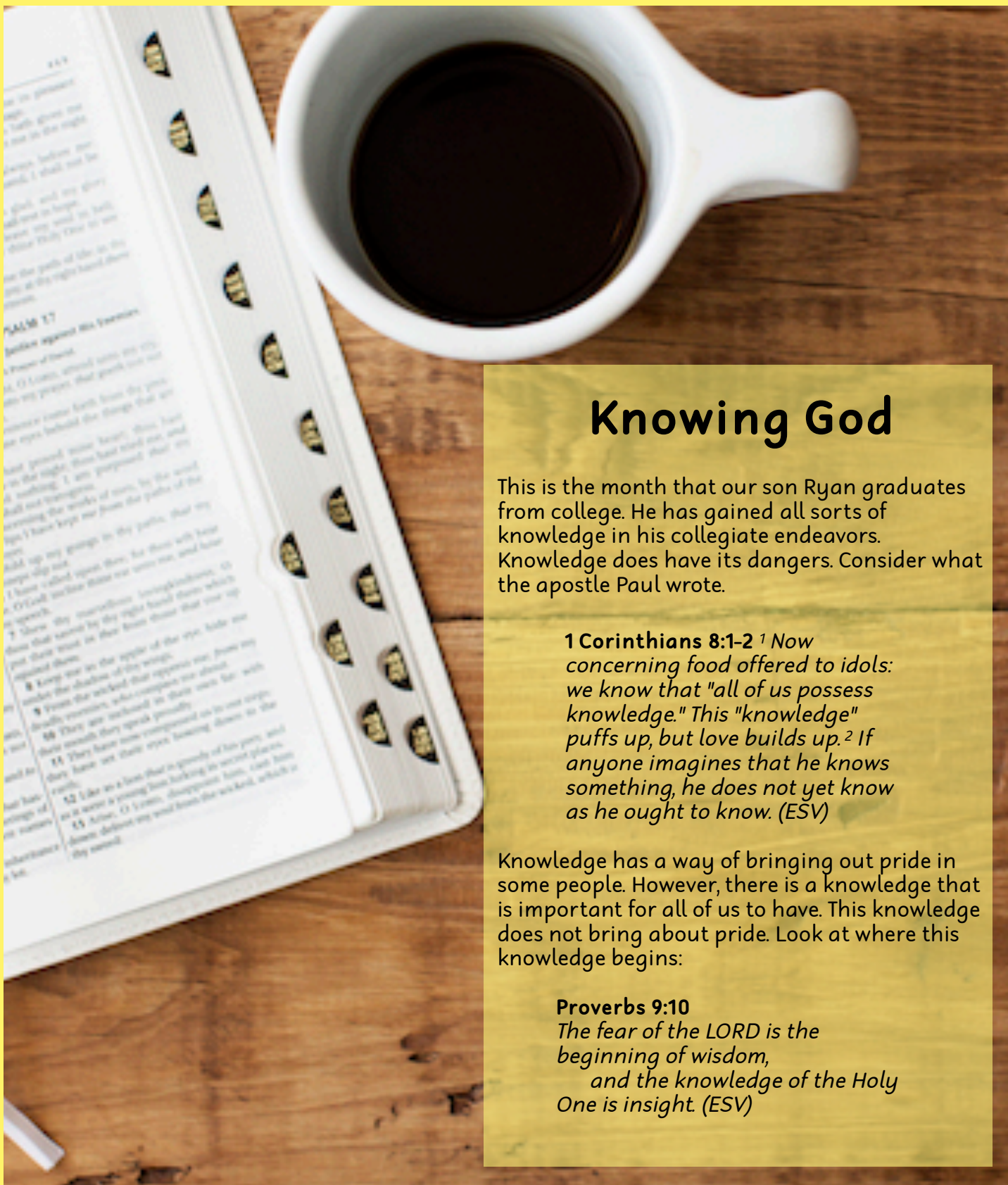


May 2019

From the Pastor



## Knowing God

This is the month that our son Ryan graduates from college. He has gained all sorts of knowledge in his collegiate endeavors. Knowledge does have its dangers. Consider what the apostle Paul wrote.

**1 Corinthians 8:1-2** *<sup>1</sup> Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.<sup>2</sup> If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. (ESV)*

Knowledge has a way of bringing out pride in some people. However, there is a knowledge that is important for all of us to have. This knowledge does not bring about pride. Look at where this knowledge begins:

**Proverbs 9:10**  
*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (ESV)*

True knowledge begins with a fear of the Lord. Fear in this case means a deep respect and honor of God. If you want this knowledge, begin by bowing before God and worshiping Him.

This knowledge will profit you and I; this knowledge is better than everything you own. What is the knowledge that God would want you and I to have? Here again is what the apostle Paul writes:

**Philippians 3:8-10** <sup>8</sup> *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (ESV)*

The knowledge you and I should seek is the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Get to know Jesus. Spend time in learning about Jesus. Read the gospels and learn, but that's not all.

Paul gave up everything for Jesus. Are you willing to give up all your pet sins for Jesus? If so, you are on the way to knowing Christ. To give up our sins will take the power of the resurrection of Jesus. As you lean on God for help in times of temptation, you will come to know about God and His power.

How do we become like Jesus in His death? By giving up your life for God, you give up your old life and your ways of sin. You then give God all control of your life. You no longer live your old life of sin, you let it die, so God can live His life through you.

To have the best knowledge of all, the knowledge of God, work on worshiping God, lean on God's power in times of temptations, and give God all your life. Then you will know God.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.