

**DEVOTED**  
“What’s Your Name?”  
March 16, 2025

**INTRO.:** Good morning and welcome to our ongoing series entitled, **DEVOTED**. Our theme this morning is, “*What’s Your Name?*” How much does it mean to people that you and I remember their name? Dale Carnegie said, “A person’s name is, to that person, the sweetest, most important sound in any language.” Yet, how many of us struggle to remember a person’s name. I’ve had a situation where a person is called by two different names, depending on the current setting. None of my sisters, brothers-in-law, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews or nieces call me Dawes. They call me Jay, which is my middle name because my father and grandfather also had Dawes as their first name. Sometimes I use that name when making a reservation at a restaurant because they can’t get Dawes right. One author says it this way, “Have you ever been to an event and you’re introduced to someone, and they say their name and almost as soon as they’ve said it, it’s like a paper plane that’s just flown over your head? Probably every one of us has had to come up with some way to help us remember a person’s name. Maybe it’s word association, but that doesn’t always work. Somebody, whom I met years ago, came up with a word association to remember my name. For Dawes they thought of Jaws and for Dunham it reminded them of denim, so they thought of Levis. One day they introduced me as *Jaws Levi*. He was far more embarrassed than I was. It actually made me laugh. What I do now to remember names at church is to write them on sticky notes in my Bible and sometimes I write something that would help me to remember their name. Sometimes I will ask one of you to help me if I’ve forgotten a person’s name. Remembering a person’s name gives us a bit of an idea of how well we know them. Last week, Pastor Luke (who did a fine job) spoke about how God shows His devotion to us in His knowing us and how God has made it possible for us to know Him. What does this mean in our knowing one another? To do this we’re going to look at the following three truths as revealed in the Bible, the Word of God.

**GOD KNOWS HIS SHEEP**

**WE CAN KNOW GOD**

**WE ARE FAMILY**

We’re going to begin by reading some Scripture together which we will then examine a little more closely.

**John 10:14–15** “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**John 10:27–30** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

**Hebrews 10:23–25** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Romans 12:9–16** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**GOD KNOWS HIS SHEEP**

**John 10:14–15** “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

“*I know my sheep*.” this is actually two words in the original language (Greek). There is first a personal pronoun followed by the present tense verb “*to be*,” in the first person. It would literally read, “I, I am.” John is quoting Jesus, and it is said this way to emphasize that Jesus, and Jesus alone, is the Good Shepherd. Because it is in the present tense, He continues to be the Good Shepherd! As one reads and studies through John 10, it is clear that Jesus is claiming to be God.

What do we notice about this shepherd?

*“I **know** my sheep:”* The word, “know” is also in the present tense. As Pastor Luke pointed out last week, in the English language, this word can mean many different levels of knowing.

I really enjoy following Penn State wrestling. They have a phenomenal team once again this year. If you were to ask me, “Do I know who is in their starting lineup? I could answer in the affirmative and name all ten of the wrestlers who are the starters in their weight classes. Tom Dawson has invited me to some matches over the last few years and I have enjoyed the company of some other men as we have gone up together. I know Luke, Braden, Beau, Shane, Tyler, Mitchell, Levi, Carter, Josh, and Greg. I know their national rankings, what year they are in college, how they did this year, but do I really know them? I don’t even know if they like ice cream or peeps!

Greek is a far more definitive language. The word, “*know*,” used here refers to an intimate knowledge. It is also in the present tense which means this is an ongoing knowing, and there will never be a time that He does know His sheep.

*“I know **my sheep**:”* Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows (ongoing), intimately, His sheep. This causes us to ask the question, “Who are His sheep?” He is referring to those who have come to believe they are sinners, in need of a Savior, have repented of their sin, and sought God’s forgiveness through what Jesus has done on the cross, in dying and raising again for their sin. Do you know if you’re one of His sheep? Think about this truth. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, knows His sheep better than the sheep know themselves. He knows His sheep just as the Father knows (present tense) Him, and just as He knows (present tense) the Father.

Later in this chapter we read:

**John 10:27-28** My sheep listen to my voice; I **know** them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

*“I **know** them:”* this is the same word used in verse 14 and it is also a present tense.

*“I **give** them eternal life:”* this is perfect tense which is an action in the past with ongoing results. Notice Jesus doesn’t say that the sheep have earned eternal life. This also informs us as to when a person possesses eternal life. When does that occur? It is at the moment of salvation.

*“they shall **never perish**:”* Those who truly know Christ as Savior and Lord know where they are headed for eternity. Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!

*“no one can snatch them out of my hand:”* the words, “can” and “snatch” are in the present tense. The Bible tells us that the security of the believer is in Jesus Christ. It is not in our performance. Next, we will be going over the characteristics of the Shepherd’s sheep. Sheep, to survive, the elements, their enemies, and themselves MUST have a shepherd.

God shows His devotion to His sheep in how thoroughly He knows His sheep, loves His sheep, and provides security to His sheep. This truly is amazing but so is this next truth.

## **WE CAN KNOW GOD**

We should be very excited about this! God knows us and wants to have a personal relationship with us.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep **know** me: this is the same word used earlier in this verse and it is also in the present tense. We can have an intimate, close relationship with the Lord. He’s not just someone way up there who is unreachable. How do we know Him?

As Pastor Luke shared, we need to have our sins forgiven through repenting of our sin, believing Christ died and rose again for our sins, giving our lives to Him. That’s how we become a child of God and then we begin our walk with Him. As a child of God, when we sin, it breaks our communication with God. It does not take away our salvation. When we sin we need to confess that to God and have our communication with God restored. We get to know God through reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on His Word, the Bible. We need to do what we’re doing today in gathering together to encourage one another, worship, and hear from God’s Word. We see some other things about sheep later in this chapter.

**John 10:27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me (other translations have “hear”) this is a present tense. Sheep must first hear the call to salvation and then continue to listen as they spend time in the Bible. How’s my hearing when it comes to God? How is your hearing when it comes to God?

**John 10:27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me This is a present tense and is a life-long characteristic of the sheep as they relate to the shepherd. God invades our lives, not just for assurance of eternity, but to change our lives, making us more like Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The more closely we follow God the better we get to know Him. The Apostle Paul gives this admonition to the church at Corinth.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Literally: an imitator (where we get the word, “mimic”) be or become (present tense) of me just as I am of Christ

We have seen that God knows His sheep, and the sheep can know God. How does this relate to all believers. Romans 8 tells us that all those who know Christ as Savior and Lord have been adopted into the family of God. This is a permanent adoption that is sealed by the Holy Spirit. So, what is the relationship of believers to one another?

### **WE ARE FAMILY**

Back in 1979 the Pittsburgh Pirates adopted this as the theme of their team. They were in fourth place at the time and went on to win the World Series. The truth of all believers being family goes far deeper. As a family what are we called to do? I want to highlight the last two passages that we read in unison earlier in the message.

#### ***“Let us...”***

This is a group project. We are better together!

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful

***“hold unwaveringly:”*** present tense

***“to the hope we profess:”*** the hope of the gospel. This tells me we will face opposition, and maybe even doubt. How are you and I encouraging one another in our walk with Christ? How can we continue on?

***“for He who promised is faithful:”*** you and I can count on God because He has never gone back on His promises.

Are we pointing one another back to the promises of God?

#### ***“Let us:...”***

**Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

***“consider:”*** to contemplate:” consider

***“spur one another on:”*** to stir up, to provoke

***“toward love and good deeds:”*** this is the word *agape* which is the word used in reference to God’s love and can only be accomplished by those who have a personal relationship with God.

How is this being accomplished here at First Baptist as we relate to one another? Let’s join together in doing this!

#### ***“Let us...”***

**Hebrews 10:25** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

***“not give up:”*** to forsake, to abandon (present tense participle)

***“encourage one another:”*** can also mean to exhort (present tense participle)

***“see:”*** present tense

***“the day approaching:”*** to draw near, to come close (present tense participle)

Are we connecting with our brothers and sisters when they’re missing from the gathering of the body?

All of these remind us: we need each other, we need to get to know others so they can speak into our lives, and we can speak into their lives, we can’t do this with everyone.

The theme of family is present in Romans 12:9-16 as well. These verses are loaded with present tense verbs as well as commands. We’re going to run through them fairly quickly.

**Romans 12:9** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

**“love:”** agape

**“hate** *what is evil*” to abhor (present tense participle)

**“cling** *to what is good:*” to cling to, to be attached to (present tense participle)

**Romans 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

**“honor:”** to esteem more highly, to consider better (present tense participle)

**Romans 12:11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

**“zeal:”** to be enthusiastic, to be excited (present tense participle)

**“serving** *the Lord:*” to serve (present tense participle)

**Romans 12:12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**“joyful in hope:”** to rejoice (present tense participle)

**“patient in affliction:”** to endure (present tense participle)

**“faithful in prayer:”** to be devoted to, to persist in (present tense participle)

**Romans 12:13** Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**“share** with God’s people:” to share in, to contribute to (present tense participle)

**“practice** *hospitality:*” to pursue (present tense participle) can even relate to strangers (Hebrews 13:1-2)

**Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

**“bless** *those who persecute you:*” to bless (present tense command)

*“bless those who **persecute** you:”* to pursue, to persecute (present tense participle)

**“bless** *and do not curse:*” to bless (present tense command)

*“bless and **do not curse:**”* to curse (present tense command)

**Romans 12:15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

**“Rejoice** *with those who rejoice:*” to rejoice (present tense)

*“Rejoice with those who **rejoice:**”* to rejoice (present tense participle)

**“mourn** *with those who mourn:*” to weep (present tense)

*“mourn with those who **mourn:**”* to weep (present tense)

**Romans 12:16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

**Romans 12:16 (NASB95) — 16** Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

This is a description of how a family is to act toward one another. This involves investing in the lives of others. We need to get to know one another.

## **SO WHAT???**

God knows us thoroughly and still loves us. Amazing! God has provided the way for us to, not only have our sins forgiven, but to get to know Him through a personal relationship with Him. God has created us to be in relation with others to assist in their and our walk with God as well as fulfilling His great commission to share the gospel. Why do we try to do life alone?

\*Do I truly believe I need others in my life?

\*Who will I encourage and pray for this week?

\*Am I involved in a small group?

\*Who do I know who has yet to come to faith?