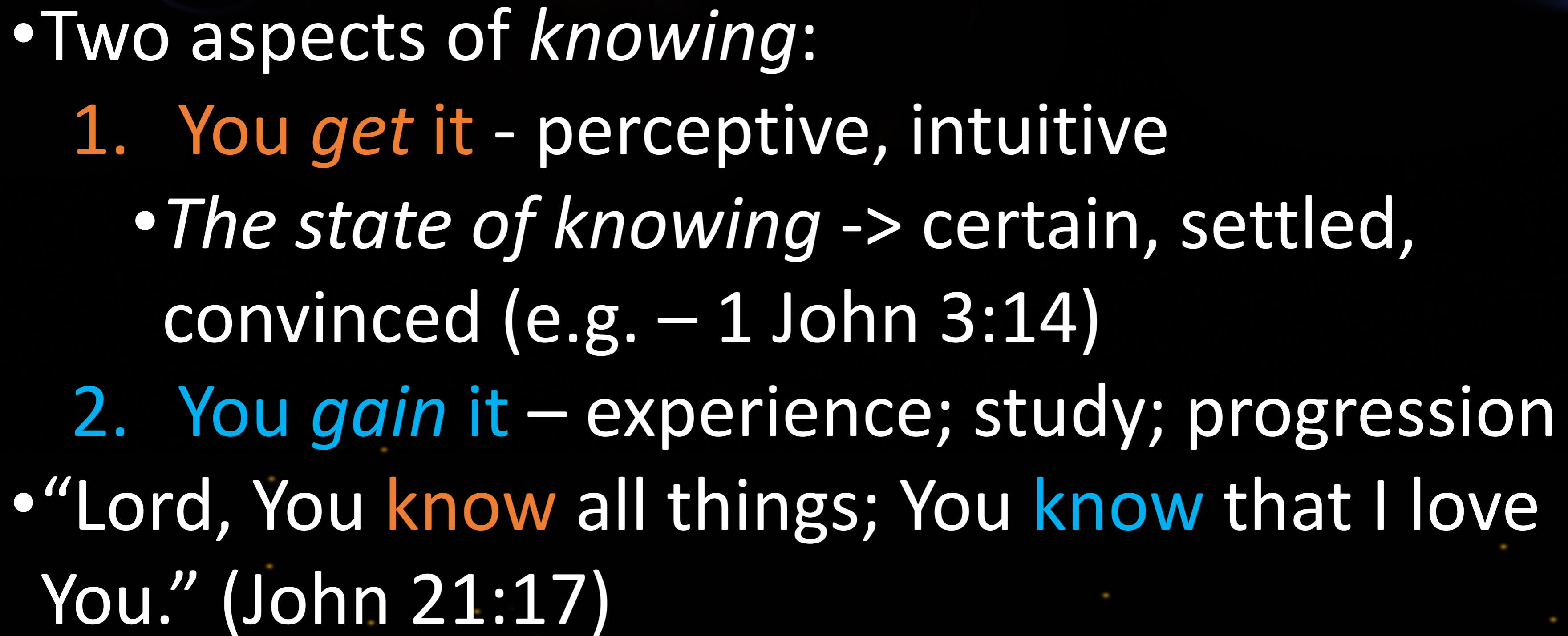




***The shortest distance
between two points
is a straight line***

- Euclid (born c. 325 BC) is considered the father of geometry
- His book *Elements* has been used for over 2,200 years
- *Euclid = good fame -> renowned, glorious*

- 
- Two aspects of *knowing*:
 1. *You get it* - perceptive, intuitive
 - *The state of knowing* -> certain, settled, convinced (e.g. – 1 John 3:14)
 2. *You gain it* – experience; study; progression
 - “Lord, You *know* all things; You *know* that I love You.” (John 21:17)



Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

1 John 5:18-21

- *What Do We Know?*
 1. We Know Preservation
 2. We Know Separation
 3. We Know Illumination

1. We Know Preservation

- “We know that no one who is born of God sins”
 - *Sins* -> as a lifestyle or practice (3:4-9)
 - Because of God’s *seed* (3:9)
 - Those truly born of God practice the truth, righteousness, and love – just like Jesus
 - We still sin, but our overall movement is toward righteousness (*sinning less*)

1. We Know Preservation

- “We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him”
 - Jesus safeguards and sustains believers in the world (cf. John 17:11-12), to keep them from re-adopting a sinful lifestyle
 - Yet we are to obey His commandments, keep His word, and not wander from the truth

1. We Know Preservation

- “and the evil one does not touch him”
 - *Touch* -> grasping to cause harm
 - “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.”
(John 17:15)

2. We Know Separation

- “We know that we are of God”
 - *Of - belonging to, related to, pertaining to*
(see 4:4-6 - replace *from* with *of*)
 - “love is *of* God” (4:7)
 - God is our Source and Sustaining Power
 - If we know with certainty that we have eternal life (5:13), we know we belong to God

2. We Know Separation

- “We know ... that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one”
 - The *evil one* is the source and sustaining power of world system
 - Whatever is part of the world system is not *of* God (2:16; 4:4-6)
 - It hates God & His righteousness (3:11-13)

2. We **Know** Separation

- We are *set apart* by the truth (John 17:14-17)
 - The world operates in *ignorance* and *darkness* (Eph. 4:17-19)
 - Those who are *of* God set their attention and affections on the things *of* God (cf. Phil. 4:8-9; Col. 3:1-4)

3. We Know Illumination

- “we know that the Son of God has come”
 - To deny the incarnation is to deny:
 - A real, historical fact (cf. 1:1-3; 2:22; 4:2-3)
 - The Father also (2:22-23; 5:10)
 - His purpose: to manifest God’s life (1:2-3);
“to be the propitiation for our sins” (5:10)

3. We Know Illumination

- “we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding”
 - *Understanding – the mind activated -> the ability to understand -> the capacity to receive spiritual knowledge (cf. 1 Cor. 2)*
 - Cf. the anointing (2:20, 27)

3. We Know Illumination

- “so that we may know Him who is true”
 - *Know* -> progressive, experiential
 - Jesus revealed the Father (John 14:8-11)
 - The more we come to know Jesus, the better we know the Father also

3. We Know Illumination

- “so that we may know Him who is true”
 - *True* – real, genuine, Ultimate Reality
 - “that they may know You, the only true God” (John 17:3)
 - “how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God” (1 Thess. 1:9)
 - “Him who is true” – *the Real One*

3. We Know Illumination

- “and we are in [the Real One]”
 - As opposed to *the evil one* (5:19)
 - *In* -> condition -> *fellowship* (see 1:3, 6-7)
- “in His Son Jesus Christ”
 - We are *in* God because we are *in* Christ
 - Jesus makes it possible for us to know God and to be *in* God (John 17:3; 1 John 5:12)

3. We **Know** Illumination

- “This is the **true** God and eternal life”
 - Most likely refers to *the **Real One***
 - In contrast to the many idols available in Ephesus (cf. 5:21)
 - *Idols* – either false gods or false views of God (e.g. – the pre-Gnostic views)
- “Guard yourselves” - bad doctrine <-> bad living

So What?

“The significance of incarnation and resurrection is not that Jesus was a human like us but rather that we are like Jesus—or at least have the potential to be like him. The significance of Jesus is not as a vehicle of salvation but as a model of perfection.” (John White)

So What?

“Jesus was one who reached the state of Christ Consciousness. There have been many others. He utilized a blueprint we must follow ... The way is open for everyone to become a Christ by allowing the Christ consciousness through walking the same path he walked. He simply and beautifully demonstrated the pattern.” (John Davis and Naomi Rice)



So What?

- We must **know** the truth
- We must be grounded in the truth
- We must practice the truth
- The world hates God and is inventing all kinds of distractions and deceptions to lead people astray from the truth
- “make sure no one deceives you”!! (3:7)