

## **“Ignorant People”** **I Corinthians 14:38**

Introduction: The Bible speaks much about the subject of ignorance. Certainly, the Lord does not want us to be ignorant as seen in Colossians 1:9 (“*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*”). Noah Webster defined “ignorant” as “Destitute of knowledge; uninstructed or uninformed; untaught; unenlightened; Unknown; undiscovered; one unlettered or unskilled”. God’s children are to be well instructed in His will and ways as we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). Some feel that ignorance is bliss, but in the Scriptures, there is the:

1. Fatal Ignorance Deuteronomy 19:4- “*And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbour ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past;*”
2. Fervent Ignorance Acts 17:23- “*For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*”
3. Ferocious Ignorance I Timothy 1:13- “*Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*”
4. Former Ignorance I Peter 1:14- “*As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*”
5. Foolish Ignorance I Peter 2:15- “*For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:*”

Body: From these verses, we can see how that ignorance is not bliss. In Webster’s definition of “ignorant”, he continues with the word “ignore”. According to Webster, people are ignorant because they ignore. This concept is also seen in the writings of Paul in Hebrews 5:11-12. There was a desired instruction (v. 11- “*Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered*”) and a deliberate ignorance (v. 11- “*seeing ye are dull of hearing*”). Instead of being able to teach (v. 12), the Hebrew believers had a need to be taught. God would not have it to be so. He wants us informed in spiritual matters. As we study the Word of God, we see many areas in which the Lord wants us well informed. Notice what areas the Lord does not want us ignorant.

- I. Ignorance of the Doctrine of Sin Numbers 15:24-29
  - A. The Committing of Ignorant Sin v. 24- “*if ought be committed by ignorance*”
  - B. The Covering of Ignorant Sin v. 25- “*make an atonement*”
  - C. The Cleansing of Ignorant Sin v. 26- “*it shall be forgiven*”
  - D. The Cost of Ignorant Sin vs. 27-28- “*offering...atonement*”
  - E. The Conditions of Ignorant Sin v. 29- “*one law for him that sinneth through ignorance*” (Acts 17:30)

- II. Ignorance of the Duties of a Servant Isaiah 56:10
  - A. They are to See- *“His watchmen are blind”*
  - B. They are to Speak- *“they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark”*
  - C. They are to Serve- *“sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber”*
  
- III. Ignorance of the Design of Salvation Romans 10:3
  - A. The Need of Salvation- *“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness”*
  - B. The Neglect of Salvation- *“going about to establish their own righteousness”*
  - C. The Negligence of Salvation- *“have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God”*
  
- IV. Ignorance of the Disclosure of a Secret Romans 11:25
  - A. The Blindness of Israel- *“blindness in part is happened to Israel”*
  - B. The Blessings of Israel- *“until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in”*
    - 1. Their Restraint- *“until the fulness of the Gentiles”*
      - a. Times of the Gentiles Luke 21:24
        - (1) When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, conquered Israel in 606 B.C., the Times of the Gentiles began. Daniel outlined this period.
        - (2) This is a period when the Gentiles are in control of the world and have national power as seen in Jeremiah 27:5-7.
      - b. Fulness of the Gentiles Romans 11:25
        - (1) The Fulness of the Gentiles refers to the Gentiles that are “called out” to make up the church.
        - (2) This period began at Pentecost and will end after the tribulation period. After this time, the Jews will be restored to their own land thus ending the fulness of the Gentiles.
    - 2. Their Restoration Jeremiah 30:10-11, Amos 9:14-15
  
- V. Ignorance of the Deficiency of Sinners Ephesians 4:17-19
  - A. The Actions of Sinners v. 17- *“walk not as other Gentiles walk”*
  - B. The Aptitude of Sinners v. 17- *“in the vanity of their mind”*
  - C. The Awareness of Sinners v. 18- *“Having the understanding darkened”*
  - D. The Alienation of Sinners v. 18- *“being alienated from the life of God”*
    - 1. Their Intellect v. 18- *“through the ignorance that is in them”*
    - 2. Their Insight v. 18- *“because of the blindness of their heart”*
    - 3. Their Instinct v. 19- *“given themselves over”*
  
- VI. Ignorance of the Deceitfulness of Sins I Corinthians 10:1-12
  - A. The Protection of Israel vs. 1-2- *“all our fathers were under the cloud...”*
  - B. The Provisions of Israel vs. 3-4- *“did all eat the same spiritual meat...”*
  - C. The Problem of Israel v. 5- *“But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.”*

1. Sensual Things v. 6- *“we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted”* Numbers 11:4-9, 31-34
  - a. Lust is a longing desire for that which is forbidden. It is a eagerness to possess or enjoy; carnal appetite; unlawful desire of carnal pleasure
  - b. They were not content with their current provision and let their carnal appetites dominate.
  - c. Lust is a secret, hidden sin.
2. Strange Things v. 7- *“Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”* Exodus 32:1-9, 25
  - a. Idolatry is the worship of idols, images, or anything made by hands, or which is not of God; excessive attachment or veneration for anything, or that which borders on adoration
  - b. To eat and drink refers to the heathen feasts in their temples.
  - c. Rose up to play depicts choral songs and dances accompanied with revelry in honor to the idol.
3. Sexual Things v. 8- *“Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.”* Numbers 25:1-9
  - a. Fornication is the incontinence or lewdness of unmarried persons, male or female.
  - b. For the three and twenty thousand (that fell in one day) refer to Numbers 25:9.
  - c. At Corinth, there was a temple dedicated to Venus (“to lust”). At this place, there were 1,000 priestesses that were common prostitutes.
  - d. Their spiritual whoredom led to bodily whoredom.
4. Sarcastic Things v. 9- *“Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.”* Numbers 21:4-6
  - a. To tempt means to try, prove, or put to trial for proof.
  - b. Webster defines tempt as, “to try his patience, to provoke His anger, to act in such a way as to see how much He will bear, They tried His patience and forbearance by rebellion, murmuring, impatience, and dissatisfaction.
  - c. Refer to Matthew 4:5-7.
5. Speaking Things v. 10- *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”* Num. 12:1-2, 9
  - a. Webster defined murmur as, “a complaint half suppressed, or uttered in a low, muttering voice, to mutter, to growl, grumbling, to complain, to utter complaints in a low, half articulated voice
  - b. They railed on their leaders when times got hard. Numbers 14:2, 26-35

D. The Parable of Israel vs. 11-12

- VII. Ignorance of the Donations for Spirituality I Corinthians 12:1-11
- A. The Diversities of the Gifts vs. 4-6
    1. Diversities of Gifts—The Same Spirit v. 4
    2. Differences of Administration—The Same Lord v. 5
    3. Diversities of Operations—The Same God v. 6
  - B. The Description of the Gifts vs. 8-10, 28, Eph. 4:11, Rom. 12:6-8 (19 in all)
    1. Serving Gifts
      - a. v. 8- *“the word of wisdom”*
      - b. v. 8- *“the word of knowledge”*
      - c. v. 9- *“To another faith”*
      - d. v. 10- *“discerning of spirits”*
    2. Sign Gifts I Corinthians 1:22
      - a. v. 9- *“the gifts of healing”*
      - b. v. 10- *“the working of miracles”*
    3. Speaking Gifts I Corinthians 14:22
      - a. v. 10- *“to another prophecy”*
      - b. v. 10- *“divers kinds of tongues”*
      - c. v. 10- *“the interpretation of tongues”*
  - C. The Disbursement of the Gifts v. 11- *“dividing to every man severally as he will”* (Not as we will, but as He will.)
  - D. The Design of the Gifts vs. 7, 12 (*“to profit withal”*)
    1. Spiritual gifts are not for enjoyment, but for employment.
    2. Spiritual gifts are not for promotion of self, but for prosperity of the saints.
- VIII. Ignorance of the Distresses of Servitude II Corinthians 1:8
- A. The Consolation during Distresses vs. 3-7
  - B. The Coming of Distresses v. 8- *“our trouble which came to us in Asia”*
  - C. The Compaction of Distresses v. 8- *“we were pressed out of measure”*
  - D. The Consumption of Distresses v. 8- *“above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life”*
  - E. The Consideration of Distresses vs. 9-10
  - F. The Compassion during Distresses v. 11- *“Ye also helping together by prayer for us”*
- IX. Ignorance of the Devices of Satan II Corinthians 2:11
- A. The Punishment of the Disciplined v. 6- *“Sufficient to such a man is this punishment”*
  - B. The Pardon of the Disciplined vs. 7-10
  - C. The Preparations of the Devil v. 11
    1. His Advantage- *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us”* (The advantage Satan gains in many churches is a critical, accusing spirit amongst the congregation. Revelation 12:10)
    2. His Ammunition- *“we are not ignorant of his devices”* (One of his devices is unforgiveness. Matthew 6:14-15)

- X. Ignorance of the Departure of the Saints I Thessalonians 4:13, II Peter 3:5-8
- A. It is a Consolation to the Saints v. 13- *“ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope”*
  - B. It is a Conviction of the Saints v. 14- *“For if we believe”*
  - C. It is a Certainty to the Saints v. 15- *“this we say unto you by the word of the Lord”*
  - D. It is a Calling of the Saints v. 16- *“the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God”*
  - E. It is a Catching of the Saints v. 17- *“we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them”*
  - F. It is a Comfort to the Saints v. 18- *“comfort one another with these words”*

Conclusion: In the Old Testament, the High Priest had to have compassion on the ignorant (Hebrews 5:2- *“Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.”*). The reason that he could do this is because he committed sins in ignorance also. However, we have a High Priest in heaven, Jesus, which has never committed one sin. Can He have compassion on us? According to Hebrews 4:15, Jesus is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. You may ask, “Preacher, I have committed things through ignorance. What can I do?” The answer is to confess it to Jesus and learn the ways of the Lord. He is a forgiving God that will help you!