

What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You: So Know It – Part 2

We Must Know God & Obey The Gospel. Ignorance To Both Or Any Is Not An Option (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

When a person is outside of Christ & we are in Christ, then our mission is to bring the person who is in trouble into the church, the body of Christ, which is the rest for the saved. The reason why they need to be in the church is because **a)** God adds the saved to His church (**Acts 2:47**) & **b)** so Christ will not take vengeance on them. Many do not understand Christ is going to take vengeance on them that know not God. However, many will attempt to use this as an excuse as to why they do not obey the gospel. They will say things such as, "But what about the people in a foreign country who never seen a Bible before." Our response should be **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**, along with **John 6:45** which teaches, "**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**" It is not that people have not heard of God, but individuals chose to disregard all the evidence that is displayed in their everyday lives, which points to God (**Romans 1:18-21**). Therefore, they have heard of God, but refuse to learn of the Father, yet they claim ignorance thinking it is going to excuse them. Furthermore, many do not understand Christ is going to take vengeance on them that obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many congregations have departed from the faith, which teaches us to seek & save the lost, by seeking the lost, adding them to their flock, & convincing them they are saved by some other method mentioned outside the scriptures. "We are not allowed to change the word to fit the man, but man must change to fit the word. Christ is not lost, we are! Therefore, we are to do what He says & not what we want." Many call themselves Christians, but are yet to understand & believe the gospel. Many call themselves believers, but yet they believe something different from the scriptures & lack faith in the God of the Bible. Many call themselves repenting, but yet they still continue in their sinful lifestyles affirming God is pleased. Many admit to confessing Christ, but the Christ they are confessing cannot be found in scripture. Many claim they have been baptized; some by sprinkling, some by pouring, & some by immersion. Some accept baptisms not authorized by Christ. Whatever it is, they have not obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many will say, "But he or she is so sincere." We can be sincere, but we can be sincerely wrong. God requires we be sincerely right. Therefore, knowledge & obedience to the gospel is essential to salvation. Hence, ignorance is not an option. What you don't know can hurt you!

There are some things that knowledge of the truth & obedience to it can accomplish that nothing else can. In **John 8:32**, Jesus said, "**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" It is only knowledge of the truth that can make us free & not ignorance of the truth. Also, in **1 Timothy 2:4**, the Bible reads, "**Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**" God wants us saved & knowledgeable of the truth. God does not want us lost & ignorant to the truth because truth is the only thing that makes us free, for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (**2 Corinthians 3:17**). Therefore, knowledge means nothing IF we are not coming to the knowledge of the truth. In **2 Timothy 3:7**, the Bible reads, "**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**" Oftentimes, Christians only listen to brethren with postdoctoral degrees, college degrees, & "seniority in the church", published books, & etc because they have all of this knowledge. It's great they have knowledge, but do they have knowledge of the truth? When we seek after knowledge, we are to seek after the knowledge of truth, which will make us free, save our souls, & give us liberty & not remain in ignorance or knowledge of things separate from truth, which will keep us bound, destroy our souls, & continue our enslavement in sin. What you don't know can hurt you!

Being Good Is Not Good Enough (Romans 10:1-3)

Here we have the apostle Paul praying for Israel. His prayer is for Israel to be saved. Paul was praying because he bore record they had a zeal for God, but it was not according to knowledge. So, **zeal + ignorance = destruction**. Knowledge is the key to salvation, for strange things happen when individuals have a zeal of God, but it is according to ignorance. Many are ignorant of God's righteousness, have gone out, & established their own creeds, religions, & organizations. With this being the case, the Bible teaches in all their zeal, they have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God. It is a sad commentary when individuals are sincere, but are sincerely wrong, sadly mistaken, & zealously ignorant simply because they chose to remain oblivious & disregard the knowledge of truth God has made readily available through His Son & His word.

What you don't know can hurt you! Therefore, get knowledge, because God is no longer overlooking our ignorance. Get knowledge; so we can have rest with the saved. Get knowledge; so Christ will not take vengeance on us. Get knowledge, because there are no such things as excuses with God. Get knowledge; so we can be free. Get knowledge; so we can be saved. Get knowledge; so we can submit ourselves to the righteousness of God. Get knowledge, because there remains no more sacrifice for our sins (**Hebrews 10:26**).