

# “The Ignorance That Was In Them”

Ephesians 4:18

- A. What you don't know *can* hurt you.
  - 1. In physical matters: “I didn't know the gun was loaded.”
  - 2. In spiritual matters: (Hos. 4:6; Acts 3:17; 17:23,30; Eph. 4:18)
- B. One must know the truth to be saved. (John 8:32)
  - 1. There is no premium on ignorance — cf. Man in debate.
  - 2. Gospel must be taught and learned. (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- C. We want to notice the kinds of ignorance, causes of ignorance and effects of ignorance.

Discussion:

## I. Three Principal *Kinds* Of Ignorance.

- A. Ignorant of *content*.
  - 1. Do not know what Bible says because do not read it.
  - 2. Do not know how to find information because do not know structure. (Ill. “Book of Hezekiah”; Acts in O.T.?)
- B. Ignorant in *comprehension*.
  - 1. Because do not take time to learn meaning of words. (cf. prodigal, lascivious, strait, perfect).
  - 2. Because do not consider the context.
    - a. Immediate context. (cf. Mt. 5:48; 1 Cor. 1:17; Nahum 2:4).
    - b. General context — times of writers (cf. Mt. 9:16,17; Acts 10:1) — What did they have in mind?
  - 3. Because do not study language usage.
    - a. “Not ... but” (Matt. 6:19; Jn. 6:27; 1 Cor. 1:17; 1 Pet. 3:3).
    - b. “all (things, men, etc. — Acts 2:44; Rom. 8:28).
- C. Ignorant of *applications*.
  - 1. Strong on information, weak on application.
  - 2. Strong on general principles, but weak on specific applications.
    - a. Everyone opposes false teaching—few know a false teacher.
    - b. Everyone endorses purity, chastity, modesty — what of specifics?

## II. Three Principle *Causes* Of Ignorance.

- A. Poor *information*. (Mk. 4:24).
  - 1. Careless teaching. (1 Tim. 4:16).
  - 2. Careless learning. (Jno. 21:20-23; Acts 17:11).
- B. Poor *inclination* to learn more. (cf. 1 Pet. 2:2)
  - 1. Due to indifference — need to hunger and thirst. (cf. Mt. 5:6).
  - 2. Due to pride (cf. John 9:34; 2 Pet. 1:10,15).
- C. Poor *execution* of what do know. (John 8:31,32; Heb. 5:12-14).

## III. Three Principle *Effects* of Ignorance.

- A. Alienation from God. (Rom. 10:1-3).
- B. Apostasy from God. (Hos. 4:6; Heb. 5:12-14).
- C. Awful harm to God's way. (1 Tim. 1:13; cf. Acts 8:1-4)

Conclusion:

- A. Let us improve our knowledge.
- B. Let us obey what we know to do!