**Ignorance**

**Reading – Ephesians 5:6-17**

Ignorance involves <lack of knowledge> not <intelligence>

Paul was very intelligent. He was a ***Jew brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law. (Acts22:3)***

Nevertheless Paul was very ignorant. ***(1 Timothy 1:13) although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.***

Underplayed and underemphasized - "What you don't know won't hurt you." "Ignorance is bliss."

Ignorance of God's word is a serious matter. ***(Romans 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.***

Fill in the blanks. ***"Many are called but few are*** (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)"; or "***a soft answer turns away*** (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)."

**CAUSES OF SPIRITUAL IGNORANCE?**

Lack of investigation - ***(Romans 10:1-3) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. {2} For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. {3} For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.***

***(John 5:39-40) “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. {40} "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.***

Forgetfulness - "Knowledge is useless if it wasn't recallable." ***(2 Peter 1:12-14) For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. {13} Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, {14} knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.***

***(2 Peter 3:1-2) Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), {2} that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,***

**SOME EFFECTS OF IGNORANCE**

Jeopardizes one's salvation - ***(Matthew 7:21-23) “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. {22} "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' {23} "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'***

Causes idolatry - ***(Jeremiah 2:26-28) "As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, {27} Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.' {28} But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah***

Cause of moral decay in society - ***(Romans 1:28-32) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; {29} being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, {30} backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, {31} undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; {32} who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.***

***(Hosea 4:6) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.***  Let's avoid that fate.

Cause of religious division - ***(John 17:20-21) "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; {21} "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.***

**THE REMEDY *(Acts 17:30) “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,***

***(Ephesians 4:14)*** tells us, ***that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,***

(***2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, {8} in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,***

***(2 Timothy 2:15) Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

Accept personal responsibility - ***(2 Timothy 2:2) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.***

***(Acts 8:1;4) Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... {4} Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.***

***(Matthew 28:18-20) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.***

You **can** organize Bible a class & Pray for the spread of the gospel. ***(Colossians 4:3) meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,***

Parents should meet their responsibility - ***(Ephesians 6:4) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.***

Ignorance is a great weapon of Satan’s. ***(1 Peter 5:8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***