

“But, I Didn’t Know!”

A Study in Ignorance

What It Is Ignorance?

- “Want, absence or destitution of knowledge; the state of the mind which has not been instructed in arts, literature or science, or has not been informed of facts. Ignorance may be general, or limited to particular subjects” (Webster).
 - The word is neutral, neither positive nor negative.
- Greek word: “agnoia”
 - Thayer: “lack of knowledge, ignorance, especially of divine things; of moral blindness; literally means ‘no knowledge’”

What It Is Ignorance?

- There are two kinds of ignorance: unintentional and intentional
- Unintentional ignorance
 - A person who, through no fault of his own, does not know something
 - A person who has never heard the Gospel

What It Is Ignorance?

- Intentional ignorance
 - A person who willfully chooses to either not know or believe differently
 - Eph. 4:18 - “Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart”

What Does God Say About Ignorance?

- Ignorance: Our former condition
 - Acts 17:30 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”
 - 1Tim. 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.”
 - 1Peter 1:14 - “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance”

What Does God Say About Ignorance?

- Ignorance: The State of Unbelievers
 - Repentance of ignorance is necessary, because ignorance is not an excuse, nor is it an acceptable substitute for salvation
- Ignorance is silenced by doing good
 - 1Peter 2:15 - “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men”
- Their lack of knowledge endangers their souls
 - 2Thes. 1:6-9

What Does God Say About Ignorance?

- Ignorance: The State of False Teachers
 - Rom. 10:3 - “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”
 - 2Peter 3:16 - “As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”

What Does God Say About Ignorance?

- Their intentional ignorance endangers their souls
 - Matt. 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!’”

What Does God Say About Ignorance?

- When God's People are Ignorant
 - Hosea 4:1, 6 - “Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land...
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.”

What Does God Say About Ignorance?

- Israel was "destroyed for a lack of knowledge"
- Therefore, they consulted wood and sought spiritual advice from their walking sticks
 - Hose 4:12 - "My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, And their staff informs them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, And they have played the harlot against their God."
- They found that nothing filled the emptiness and longing inside them
- Their wives and daughters fornicated with everyone that passed by
- Ignorance destroyed them; still think it's no big deal?!

What If We Choose Ignorance?

- Do you know enough to remain saved?
- Do you know enough to deal with temptation?
- To answer misuse of scripture to avoid being misled?
 - Matt. 4:1-11
 - 2Cor. 2:11 - “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
 - 1Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

What If We Choose Ignorance?

- Do we know enough to evangelize?
 - 1Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”
- Ignorance has consequences
 - If brethren are ignorant, Satan is able to use persuasive arguments through errorists to bring them under his yoke
 - Throughout history, Biblical ignorance has directly led to apostasy, and has allowed apostasy to persist

What If We Choose Ignorance?

- Ignorance is always overcome by diligent study
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
 - Heb. 5:14 - “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”