

Harvesting the Fruit of Ignorance

Hosea 4:6

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- 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.”
- What is something everyone possesses, but no one can afford?
- **Ignorance**

Harvesting the Fruit of Ignorance

- “Christianity in modern America is, in large part, innocuous, ineffectual, inoffensive, and bland. It tends to be easy, upbeat, convenient, and compatible. It does not require self-sacrifice, discipline, humility, an otherworldly outlook, a zeal for souls, a fear as well as love of God. There is little guilt and no punishment, and the payoff in heaven is virtually certain.” (Thomas Reeves, historian, University of Wisconsin)

God Does Not Accept Ignorance As An Excuse For Sin

- Many intentionally avoid learning
- Willful ignorance is intentional sin
 - Heb. 10:26 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”

God Does Not Accept Ignorance As An Excuse For Sin

- Some excuse sin, because “They didn’t know any better.”
- Lev. 5:17-19 - “If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity. 18 And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. 19 It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD.”

God Does Not Accept Ignorance As An Excuse For Sin

- If ignorance of God's will is an excuse for sin, we do others a disservice when we teach the gospel
- The apostle Paul thought he was serving God by killing Christians
 - Acts 26:9 - "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

God Does Not Accept Ignorance As An Excuse For Sin

- Whether they are aware of their sins or not, every single unforgiven sin will be punished
 - Nahum 1:3 - “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked.”
 - Ez. 18:4 - “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.”
 - Col. 3:25 - “But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”

God Does Not Accept Ignorance As An Excuse For Sin

- Everyone sins
 - Ecc. 7:20 - “For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.”
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death”

God Does Not Accept Ignorance As An Excuse For Sin

- Sin is always terminal and Jesus has the only cure for it
 - John 14:5-6 - “Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
 - John 8:24 - “If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”
 - Mark 16:15-16 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Ignorance Is Dangerous For Christians And Sinners

- Everyone is ignorant about something
- No one fully understands everything written in the scriptures
 - The scriptures are written to teach us to discern God's will, but they have the miraculous quality of providing us with an endless supply of wisdom, meditations, learning, and wonder
 - One must never be satisfied with his level of understanding

Ignorance Is Dangerous For Christians And Sinners

- Our areas of ignorance leave us vulnerable to false teachers
 - Phil. 1:9-11 - “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Ignorance Is Dangerous For Christians And Sinners

- We work to mature in knowledge and understanding
 - Eph. 4:11-15 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 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, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ”

Ignorance Is Dangerous For Christians And Sinners

- 1Thes. 5:21-22 - “Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.”
- Rom. 14:12 - “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”
- Rom. 16:19 - “For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.”

Ignorance Prevents Christians From Serving God

- We must overcome both our ignorance and our fear and teach
 - 1John 3:14-15 - “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”
 - Heb. 5:12 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

Ignorance Prevents Christians From Serving God

- Failure to share the cure for sin is selfish and sinful
 - Mark 16:15 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Harvesting the Fruit of Ignorance

- “Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge. You are not entitled to your opinion. You are entitled to your informed opinion. No one is entitled to be ignorant.” (Harlan Ellison)