

# DON'T BE IGNORANT

What does it mean to 'be ignorant'? Webster's 1828 dictionary defines the word 'ignorant' as:

- destitute of knowledge
- un-informed
- un-enlightened
- un-instructed
- un-taught
- un-skilled

Tonight we'll look at some **scriptures in regard to ignorance**.

After that, we'll compare some **types** of ignorance.

Then we'll see some **causes** of ignorance.

Finally, we'll find the **cures** for ignorance.

***God did not want the Romans to be IGNORANT of the PURPOSE of Paul's visit.***

*Paul informed the Romans that several times he intended to come and see them, but he was hindered:*

**Rom 1:11-13** For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, **to the end ye may be established;**

12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

13 Now **I would not have you ignorant**, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

*From verse 11 .... the WAY that Paul planned to establish them is in:*

**Rom 16:25-26** Now to him that is of power to **stablish you** (*just HOW is that going to be accomplished? It is in 3 ways. Watch for them as we continue reading.*)

*Here's the 1st one:* according to **MY gospel**,

*Here's the 2nd one:* and the preaching of Jesus Christ,

according to the **revelation of the mystery**,

which was kept secret since the world began,

26 **But now** is made manifest,

*Here's the 3rd one:* and by the **scriptures** of the prophets,

according to the commandment of the everlasting God,

**made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:**

*Paul ended his epistle just as he had begun it ....*

*with the authority of his **un-restricted** commission and apostleship.*

*There we find that similar phrase again .... 'made known to all nations for the obedience of faith':*

Rom 1:3-5 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, **for obedience to the faith among all nations**, for his name:

*That could NOT have been said for Jesus' 12 disciples. They were originally told NOT to go to the Gentiles:*

**Matt 10:5-6** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

*Then Jesus --- after His resurrection --- broadened their scope to include ALL nations. That is the 'so-called' Great Commission .... but the distinction for Israel was there. That is, Israel was to get salvation first, then it could be spread on out for the rest of the world:*

**Luke 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

*Yes, Jerusalem was their 'starting block':*

**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

*According to the covenant God made with Abraham, the Gentiles would be blessed THROUGH him:*

**Gen 12:1-3** Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

*Israel used to enjoy a privileged position with God. God had given His Word to them:*

**Rom 3:1-2** What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

*'ORACLES' are 'words.' The word 'oral' means 'uttered by the mouth.' It is 'what you say.'*

*But now, the gospel that PAUL preached, has no 'favored-status' for the Jew:*

**Rom 3:22** Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for **there is no difference:**

**Rom 10:12** For there is **no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

*God also wanted the Romans to understand that they (as Gentiles) were being saved .... NOT because of Israel's RISE, like the prophecy said:*

**Isa 60:1-3** **Arise**, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall **arise upon thee**, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of **thy rising**.

*But RATHER .... it was through Israel's FALL that salvation came to them:*

**Rom 11:11** I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather **through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles**, for to provoke them to jealousy.

***God did not want the Romans to be IGNORANT of the MYSTERY about what happened to Israel so that the Gentiles had salvation -- in SPITE of them:***

*During the 'dispensation of grace' .... Israel (as a nation) is blinded:*

**Rom 11:25** For I would not, brethren, **that ye should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

**God did not want the Corinthians to be IGNORANT  
of Israel's actions on their trip to the Promised Land ...**

*He wanted them to be remembered, as an example, of 'how NOT to behave':*

**1 Cor 10:1-6, and 11-12** Moreover, brethren,

**I would not that ye should be ignorant,**

how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now **these things were our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

**1 Cor 10:11-12** Now **all these things happened unto them for ensamples:** and **they are written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

*That warning there goes right along with the one we just read in Rom. 11:25, that God didn't want them to 'be wise in their own conceits' .... and they correspond with this next verse, as well:*

**Rom 12:3** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;** but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**God did not want the Corinthians to be IGNORANT  
about 'spiritual gifts' either:**

**1 Cor 12:1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I would not have you ignorant.**

*God explained spiritual gifts to them .... so they could understand BOTH their DIFFERENCES and their UNITY:*

**1 Cor 12:4** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

*Paul explained that even though they had different gifts, they were all united by the Body of Christ:*

**1 Cor 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

*Paul explained the gifts in 1st Corinthians, chapters 12, 13, and 14. He told them HOW the gifts were to properly function, and he also rebuked them for their selfish activity with the gifts.*

**God did not want the Corinthians to be IGNORANT of the PROBLEMS to be ENDURED for the gospel's sake:**

*Paul had extreme hardships taking the gospel in Asia .... so much so that his life seemed hopeless of relief:*

**2 Cor 1:8** For **we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble** which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

*Paul certainly had first-hand experience of the scripture he later wrote to Timothy:*

**2 Tim 3:12** Yea, and all that **WILL** live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

*God wanted us to be aware that the gospel is accompanied by afflictions, sufferings, and tribulations .... so you might-as-well expect it:*

**1 Thess. 3:3-4** That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

**God did not want the Thessalonians to be IGNORANT of the 'SECRET RAPTURE':**

**1 Thess. 4:13** But **I would not have you to be ignorant**, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

*Paul comforted them with information of God's plan to take them out of this world .... 'DEAD or ALIVE' .... they were going up to heaven:*

**1 Thess. 4:14-18** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

### **Now, let's look at some .... Different TYPES of Ignorance**

These are just a few that I have come up with.

#### **Keep in mind the basic definition of ignorance is 'not knowing.'**

One type of Ignorance is .... a person who has NO knowledge of the Bible:

They have never been taught any of the scriptures.

They have no morality and do not know God's standards of right and wrong.

They have possibly been exposed to religion or philosophies, but not the true God.

Another type of Ignorance is .... a person has only SIMPLE knowledge of the Bible:

They have attended 'church' for years, and grew up going to Sunday School.

They rarely read the Bible, but they've heard the 'main children's stories.'

They think only a theologian, preacher, or Doctor of Divinity can really understand the Bible.

They feel guilty about being carnal, so they volunteer for church duties.

A third type of Ignorance is .... a person who has LOTS of knowledge of the Bible:

They read their Bible through every year and have memorized verses.

They go to church every time the doors are open.

They may be a Bible college student, Seminary graduate, Teacher, or Pastor.

All those types of people are IGNORANT to the TRUTH.

The thing that makes them ignorant is their lack of knowledge

- concerning the 'mystery revelation'
- given specifically to the 'apostle Paul'
- for the 'dispensation of grace'.

*That type of ignorant person may be in either of these categories:*

*1 - The truth of 'right division' has never been shown to them.*

*However, they would be willing to listen to it reasoned from the scriptures.*

*2 - They completely reject the dispensational method of Bible study ....*

*whether it was presented to them, and they would not even consider it ---*

*or they were already warned to stay away from it --- without any personal investigation of their own.*

*They won't discuss it with you.*

*They follow the rules of their denomination.*

*They use corrupt text translations which delete Paul's distinctive ministry.*

*They label you 'hyper' .. or 'ultra' .. or 'heretic' in order to avoid conversations.*

*Next, let's look at some .... CAUSES of Ignorance*

- *No one cared for their soul --- so they're not even saved. They're lost.*
- *They are not even curious to learn any Bible truth. They have no interest in it.*
- *They don't have a final authority. They don't believe the Bible is without error.*
- *They don't 'rightly divide' the word of truth, and therefore, don't understand the things that are different.*
- *They don't recognize the 'distinctive ministry of the apostle Paul'.*
- *They don't know about the 'mystery' which has 'now' been made manifest.*
- *They have built on the wrong foundation .... the 'earthly ministry' of Christ.*
- *They follow the traditions of men.*

*Finally, let's see the .... CURES for Ignorance*

*First of all, you must believe to the salvation of your soul:*

**1 Cor 15:3-4** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

*You need a desire to know the truth .... which is God's will for you:*

**1 Tim 2:4** Who will have all men to be saved,  
and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

*You need a perfect Word of God:*

**2 Tim 3:16-17** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

*Study God's Word .... and divide it correctly:*

**2 Tim 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

*(Otherwise, you'll get the repercussions of verses 16-18, which say it leads to 'more ungodliness' .... false doctrine will eat at you like a canker .... and it can overthrow your faith.)*

*Recognize the special commission God entrusted to Paul:*

**Rom 11:13** For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

**1 Tim 1:11** According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

**Eph 3:1-3** For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,  
2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

*Acknowledge the mystery God revealed through Paul:*

**Eph 3:9** And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

**Col 1:25-27** Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

**Col 2:2-3** That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the **acknowledgement of the mystery** of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

*Build on the right foundation, which is Jesus Christ --- in His heavenly ministry .... which is 'WHAT GOD IS DOING' NOW. Paul is the only person to whom God gave that message:*

**1 Cor 3:10-11** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation**, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man **take heed how he buildeth thereupon**.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

*The foundation is 'Jesus Christ' and we know that .... in His person, character, and nature .... Jesus Christ never changes:*

**Heb 13:8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

**Mal 3:6** For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

*But, we ALSO know that God DOES change the method in which He rules over men:*

**Deut 30:15-16** See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

*In His 'great commission' to His disciples, Jesus STILL instructed them to teach the LAW:*

**Matt 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

*Yet, AFTER His ascension back to heaven .... and AFTER His commissioning of the apostle Paul --- Jesus CHANGED the 'governing factor' over mankind.*

**Rom 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you:  
for **ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

*Now, instead of 'controlling man by the LAW,'  
God has chosen to 'supervise man by GRACE'.  
God Himself has not changed, but His 'way of RULING' HAS.*

*The law proves us guilty of sin and deserving of death in hell.  
That then, drives us to Christ, who paid our sin debt for us in His own blood.  
After that we believe, we don't need the law anymore AT ALL:*

**Gal 3:24-25** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are **no longer under a schoolmaster.**

*People who are still trying to make you obey the LAW don't know what they're doing. They don't understand the change in the PROGRAM to the DISPENSATION of GRACE:*

**1 Tim 1:5-6** Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

*Because NOW we are told **NOT to** follow Jesus' EARTHLY message:*

**2 Cor 5:16** Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet **now henceforth know we him no more.**

*Now, we are supposed to 'know Christ' according to the ministry He gave to Paul. This next verse makes it CLEAR .... exactly HOW we are to know Christ:*

**Rom 16:25** Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of **Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery**, which was kept secret since the world began,

*.... and NOW, rather than 'following JESUS' .... Jesus has told us to follow PAUL .... the way PAUL followed Christ (which was NOT in His earthly ministry, but through His heavenly revelation:*

**1 Cor 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

*God has provided information to us .... that is available to us ....*

*we have but to realize it .... accept it .... and be thankful for it:*

**1 Cor 14:37** If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that **the things that I write** unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

*That is the CURE for ignorance.*

*With the wealth of knowledge God has given us in His word, about His will and His plan, there is only one other option:*

**1 Cor 14:38** **But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.**

*If we are ignorant beyond that, then so be it!*

*This is David Dowell, saying, "Think About It!"*