The Times of Ignorance

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Acts 17:30—“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”

God does not want us to be ignorant nor to swallow or wallow in ignorance.

I Corinthians 10:1; “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;”

I Corinthians 12:1; Here Paul explains that there were many who had different gifts but they were all of the same body, that being the body of Christ. Today gifts are no longer. The gifts were given by Christ or by those that witnessed Christ living during the first century. Many were confused about those who had the gifts, but Paul was explaining that those with gifts and those who did not have the fits were all of the same body.

II Corinthians 1:8; I Thessalonians 4:13; Romans 1:13;

Christians must not be ignorant of the scriptures. We must know God’s will and his teachings. If we are ignorant then we will fail as a Christian and fail in our eternal resting place.

As Christians we are commanded not to be ignorant. Ignorance is not bliss, as our culture would have it. We can’t be ignorant and be a Christian.

The only ones that should be ignorant are new babes in Christ. But, they shouldn’t be that way for long.

We cannot be ignorant when it comes to:

God—Christ—Holy Spirit—Sin and its consequences—The plan of salvation

The Church—True Worship—Faithful Christian Living—Evangelism—Benevolence

The Doctrine of Eternity

The Times of Ignorance that God Winked at:

The idolatrous city of Athens—Paul contrasted the true God with the dumb idols. He referred to their ignorance and called for their repentance.

God overlooked those that had no revelation of his word and dwelt in darkness, but now he commands all men to repent.

Polygamy was commonly practiced in the Old Testament. Great characters of the OT had more than one wife. Some of those characters included Abraham, Issac, Jacob, and the patriarchs.

Why was the idea of multiple wives overlooked? We don’t know. Now we have the law of monogamy given to us by Christ himself. Christ sanctioned the original law of marriage. Matthew 19:3-4.

Divorce in the OT. Matthew 19:7-8 Divorce was allowed because of the hardness of their heart, but not so now.

Kings: God permitted the naming of Kings over the children of Israel. Samuel was distraught that the Children of Israel wanted a King. Jehovah told Samuel that the Children of Israel were not rejecting him but rejecting Jehovah. I Samuel 8:5-9

God tells Hosea in Hosea 13:11 “I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.

Why Did God Overlook These Things?

We don’t know. Is it because of his long suffering nature?

Numbers 14:18 “The Lord is longsuffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.”

Is it because of his compassion, longsuffering, and mercy?

Psalms 86:15 “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

Is it because the Lord is slow to anger?

Nahum 1:3, 7-8 (3) “The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked; the Lord has his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. (7) The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. (8) But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.”

God also made man as a free moral agent. Psalms 81:12 In the OT there were many who were not following God’s will but their own. In the NT Romans 1:26-32

God cast the flood on mankind except for Noah and his family. Genesis 6: 5-7, 13

FOLLY:

It is incomprehensible to think that God approved disobedience. If he did, then why would he command repentance?

Mankind today likes to play the love card with God and say that God is a loving God and that he would not send anyone to hell, no matter what kind of life they lived. But this is contrary to the law of repentance commanded by God. II Thessalonians 1:7-9

If a man today is ignorant of God’s will he is unable to discern what is Biblical truth and what is not.

Today in the Christian Age people have no excuse. The New Covenant is called better seven times in Hebrews. (1:4; 7:19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 11:16, 40).

John 8:32; John 7:17; Matthew 5: 7-8; “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.”

Jesus prayed for people’s ignorance Luke 23:34 (When Christ was on the Cross)

Paul spoke of his ignorance as Saul I Timothy 1:13

Times of Ignorance Today:

Lack of biblical knowledge is blight on the world and definitely on the Lord’s church.

Isaiah 5:20; Hosea 4:6;

II Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Ways to Combat Bible Ignorance:

Bible classes must be biblically based and not fluff.

II Timothy 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Keep up with biblical materials, publications, etc.

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.

II Timothy 4:2; “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

Mark 16:16