UPCOMING

Prayer List

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.
Irven Skinner - India Mission Trip

Communion Preparation

February - Montgomery March - Carlberg

Birthday / Anniversary

Mark Potts - 6th Larry Montgomery - 13th Robbie Cooper - 20th Kylie Joiner - 23rd

Men to Serve

Announcements - Don Potts

Scripture Reading - Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

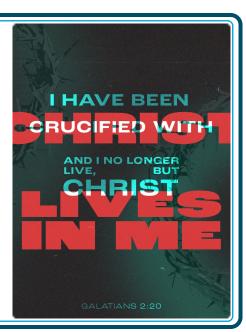
Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell

Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg

Assist on Lord's Table - David Cradic

Scripture Reading - Matthew 27:11 - 20

Closing Prayer - James Johnson



03 / 05 / 2023

WELCOME

We are a body of believers whose soul intention is to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of His church. Our desire is to reflect that of our God--that all be saved. Anyone who is willing to humble himself before the mighty hand of God can be saved.

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Four Square Bible Class // 8:30 am Isaiah Bible Class // 9:30 am Worship Service // 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Romans Bible Class // 7:00 pm

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SERMON NOTES

Ignorance is NOT bliss!

By Mike Riley

Is there really a blessing in not knowing? Are we better off to "tend to our own affairs" and pass through life blissfully unaware of facts and obligations that might "bother us"? Many have this selfish attitude, and some even offer scriptural "proof" (It is nice to know just enough to know one does not have to know).

Jesus' Teaching

Let us look at Jesus' teaching regarding ignorance. Jesus once told the Pharisees, "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth" (John 9:39-41). The lesson is related to the healing of a man born blind, who had never had the capacity of sight. One mentally incapable of knowing would not be accountable, so, would have no sin.

But when Jesus said (vs. 39), "I am come into this world that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind;" he referred to (1) meek and humble people who had never had the opportunity to perceive truth (Matthew 11:25), whose eyes would now be opened; and (2) those like the Pharisees, who had the opportunity, but who refused to see. A haughty and self-righteous attitude (John 9:24-29,34) compounded their sin and blinded them to truth.

Luke 12:48 reads, "But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes." This is the portion of the parable regarding slaves and masters when being "cut asunder" (vs. 46) and "beaten" (vs. 47) were practiced. The purpose of the parable is clearly stated in vs. 48, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" or, accountability goes hand in hand with opportunity (cf. Matthew 25:14-30).

The slave who failed his master was not free of guilt. He was "worthy of stripes" (Luke 12:48). As God's creatures, pilgrims through this life, we have obligations to our Maker and fellow-travelers — to know, and accept our fair responsibilities. In a real sense, the parable teaches that one who fails to use opportunities to learn truth and obey, is worthy of "many stripes" (Luke 12:47).

Paul's Ignorance

Paul "obtained mercy," because he "did it ignorantly in unbelief." But 1 Timothy 1:13-15 does not equate ignorance with justification.

In 1 Timothy 1:15, Paul says he was "chief" of sinners. He just says his was no presumptuous or highhanded sin (cf. Numbers 15:27-31). His railing and persecuting was done in good conscience (Acts 23:1) in keeping with what he "verily thought" to be right (Acts 26:9). The mercy he obtained is available to us in the person of Christ, who died for those who will do what Paul did when he learned the truth (Acts 22:16).

Writings Of Peter

Peter writes of those who "willingly are ignorant" of God's power and judgement (2 Peter 3:5). He admonishes, "Be not ignorant" (2 Peter 3:8) for though God is long-suffering, we must all stand before His throne (2 Corinthians 5:10). Beware presumptuous ignorance! (Psalm 19:13).

Conclusion

Finally, "If any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant" (1 Corinthians 14:38) is an admonition to cease to cast pearls before one who obstinately rejects the unified revelation of God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:37; Gal. 1:12; Ephesians 3:3). "Let them alone" (Matthew 15:14), "from such withdraw thyself" (1 Timothy 6:3-5). There will be no way to "ignore" eternal condemnation (cf. Revelation 6:12-17).