

THE NEED FOR IGNORANCE AND WEAKNESS

Introduction

- 1) The title of this sermon is not a misprint, nor have I taken leave of my senses (Acts 26:24)
- 2) There is a particular need for **ignorance** and **weakness** among faithful Christians today
 - a) How do I know this? The Bible tells me so!
 - b) The fact is, there is both a positive and negative aspect to these characteristics, though the positive is *rarely* emphasized
- 3) Consider carefully what the Bible says about the pros and cons of these traits and consider if you are displaying the proper kind of **ignorance** and **weakness** in your life

I) **IGNORANCE**

Definition: having little or no knowledge; unlearned; unaware; uninformed

- A) **Ignorance** is a bad thing when it means a lack of the knowledge of the truth
 - 1) Dangers lurk for those who cannot discern good from evil (Prov. 7:6-9; Eph. 4:14)
 - 2) The ignorant will make unwise, sinful choices (1 Pet. 1:14; Eph. 4:18; Rom. 10:3)
 - 3) Destruction comes to those who are ignorant of God's truth (Prov. 7:21-22; Hos. 4:6)
 - 4) God's word will make wise the "simple" [naïve] (Psa. 19:7; 119:130)
 - 5) Those who rightly divide the word of truth will not be ashamed (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - 6) Knowing how Satan attacks us will equip us against him (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:16)
- B) **Ignorance** is a good thing when it comes to *our association with evil things*
 - 1) We should be wise (knowledgeable, learned, aware, informed) in what is good, but "simple" (unlearned, inexperienced, innocent) concerning evil (Rom. 16:19)
 - 2) There are lifestyles, activities, and beliefs that a godly person needs to avoid
 - a) A first-hand knowledge of such can corrupt the mind and soul (1 Thess. 5:21-22)
 - i) Worldliness – sexual immorality, drugs, alcohol, gambling, theft, bad movies & music
 - b) We don't need friends who will introduce us to such things (Eph. 5:11-12; 1 Cor. 15:33)
 - c) Stay away from and remain ignorant of such filth (Acts 19:19; Phil. 4:8)

II) **WEAKNESS**

Definition: lack of strength, feebleness; inadequacy, shortcomings

- A) **Weakness** resulting from a lack of spiritual growth is a great danger to our souls
 - 1) The problem of continuing as spiritual babes and children highlights the dangers of spiritual weakness
 - a) Exhibit carnal, worldly attitudes and actions (1 Cor. 3:1-4)
 - b) Carried away by deceitful men and false doctrine (Eph. 4:14)
 - c) Lack of sufficient and necessary growth in knowledge (Heb. 5:12-14)
 - 2) The spiritually weak must grow and become strong in the Lord (1 Thess. 5:14; Gal. 6:1-2, 9; Eph. 3:16; 6:10; 2 Pet. 3:17-18; 1 Cor. 15:58)
- B) **Weakness** can also refer to *our human, fleshly inadequacies and shortcomings* that should humble us and cause us to seek the help of God
 - 1) God led Israel through the wilderness to humble them and to learn that they were not self-sufficient, but needed God to survive physically and spiritually (Deut. 8:2-3)
 - 2) Watching and praying helps to strengthen us when weak in the flesh (Matt. 26:41)
 - 3) God helps us when our human strength fails (Isa. 40:29-31; Phil. 4:13; Heb. 4:15)
 - 4) Walking with Christ when we are weak will make us truly strong (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

Conclusion

Be **ignorant** of evil while wise in the truth, and **weak** in the flesh while being strong in the faith. Examine your life, seek God, and obey the gospel which is His power to save your soul (Rom. 1:16-17).