

IGNORANCE- THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

(Hosea 4:6; Proverbs 19: 2)

“Father, grant me a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the **knowledge** of You, by having the eyes of my heart flooded with light, so that I can know and understand the hope to which You have called me.” (The prayer of Paul)

Knowledge is something acquired through life's opportunities. The world is full of the knowledge of God. Everywhere we go, we see His handiwork pointing to Him. So knowledge is the awareness of facts acquired through experiences, through books of all kinds. Knowledge is the soul eye opener. Having knowledge with understanding is a must in life; it will guide in important decisions. When man accepts knowledge it will enter his heart and understanding will rule his emotions and will. Having knowledge without zeal is indifference. Many lives have been lost for not having been warned. But many lives have also been lost for rejecting knowledge. The Lord speaks through the Prophet Hosea concerning His people saying: My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4: 6a). He blamed their priests in that they had rejected the knowledge of Him. Priests, in many ways, are responsible to impart spiritual knowledge to the people. They are held responsible before God for the spiritual wellbeing of the people. The Lord told Ezekiel that if he did not warn the wicked, and they died on their sin, their blood will be required from Ezekiel's hand (Ezekiel 3: 18). Having knowledge is a privilege and a light in dark times. But unshared knowledge has personal consequences.

The spiritual chaos the Christian world is facing today is nothing less than the result of rejection of spiritual knowledge. Starting from the pastors down to the congregation. Diverse knowledge is everywhere today through computers in the means of internet. One walks always with head down looking at their instrument seeking some kind of knowledge, but at the same time, rejects the knowledge of truth be it spiritual or knowledge pertaining to life. The knowledge that brings salvation is the spiritual knowledge YAHWEH offers to all. Today many pastors are preaching another gospel. Not the one given by YAHWEH found in His Word. No. It is a gospel that magnifies themselves, their life styles. It is a gospel that sends people to hell because they have rejected the inspired Word of God. Thousands go to church to hear the things that entertain them, or tickle their ears, while the knowledge of salvation, sanctification is rejected. A little laugh here and another

little laugh there, and “that’s all folks!” Paul prophesized this to happen in the letter to Timothy chapter 4: 3,4. He said, **For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold, and will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off unto myths and man-made fictions.** He has this to say to today’s pastors and their congregations: For God’s wrath and indignation are revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who in their wickedness **repress and hinder the truth and make it inoperative. For that which is known about God is evident to them and made plain in their inner consciousness, because God has shown it to them.** For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made. So [men] **are without excuse,** because when they **knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and godless in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened (Rom. 1:18-21).**

Lack of knowledge of the Word of God and knowledge in general will lead one to err and fall into the abyss of spiritual and physical deaths. These words of Paul are serious enough to cause one to make an inventory of his/her lives. Knowing, but not acting accordingly, is simply rejection of the truth; it is repressing and hindering the truth making it inoperative. YAHSHUA condemned the Pharisees for such behavior. “Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, pretenders, **for you shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces; for you neither enter yourselves, nor do you allow those who are about to go in to do so (Matt. 23: 13).** Ignorance has blinded the eyes of people to see truth because they have rejected knowledge. The heavens and the firmament declare the glory of its Creator and without words they express the knowledge and wisdom of God. Why cannot the human race, created in His image, accept the visible knowledge of Who God is in worship and adoration and in fear of Him, when nature expressively do so?

There were ten virgins who readied themselves to meet the bride groom. But only five paid attentions to the knowledge of what they were to do and acted with understanding. These were called the wise ones, the only ones saved, as a result. The worldly wisdom tells us that what we do not know will not hurt us. In part it is

true, but only when it comes to certain things that would cause fear and despair. Not knowing, not understanding is sheer confusion and blindness in the crossroads of life. Solomon said that zeal without knowledge is not good. Many are dying as martyrs of faith of their own choice. A faith that will not lead them to heaven. Their zeal is based on lies from the devil. At the end of their journey, they will have to face the reality of the knowledge they had rejected. Zeal without the knowledge of truth is hatred with blood shed, as we witness in the world today. Zeal should be burning in our heart only for the truth. Otherwise we will be considered fools. Don't let ignorance of the knowledge of the true God take away from your heart and mind your spiritual understanding. YAHSHUA told those who came to confront Him with questions to entangle Him by saying: **You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor God's power** (Matt. 22: 29). The Pharisees tried to entangle YAHSHUA in His teachings, but they made fools of themselves and were entangled in their ignorance, instead. The Apostle Peter warned the Christians of his days concerning the coming of Christ saying that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing... saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly as they did from the beginning of creation. They **willfully** overlook and forget this [fact] that the heavens [came into] existence long ago by the word of God, and the earth also which was formed out of water and by means of water through which the world that then [existed] was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people... You should be on your guard, lest you be carried away by the error of lawless and wicked [persons and] fall from your own firm condition; **but grow in grace and recognition and knowledge and understanding of our Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah (II Peter 3).**

How long, O simple ones will you love being simple? And the scoffers delight in scoffing and fools hate knowledge?... Because I have called and you have refused, have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it... when your panic comes as a storm and desolation and your calamity comes on as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you, then will they call upon Me but I will not answer; they will seek me early and diligently but they will not find me, because they have hated knowledge and did not choose the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord (Prov. 1). Choose my friend, choose to acquire knowledge; apply understanding to it and wisdom will guide you to your eternal home.

Father, may I be filled with the full **knowledge** of Your will in all spiritual wisdom, and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things, that I may walk in a manner worthy of You, fully pleasing to You, desiring to please You in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the **knowledge** of You". Amen! (Prayer of Paul).