

IS IGNORANCE BLISS?

Joe Slater

Certain old sayings deserve fame due to their truthfulness: “A stitch in time saves nine.” “Don’t count your chickens before they hatch.”

Others, however, while sounding good on the surface, actually express faulty (even dangerous) concepts. Consider two related examples: “Ignorance is bliss.” “What you don’t know won’t hurt you.”

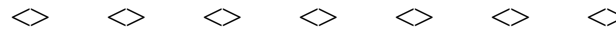
Actually, ignorance only appears to be bliss, and what you don’t know can hurt you severely. Suppose a bridge has washed out, but you drive toward it unaware. Blissful ignorance soon turns into a nightmare! What you don’t know might even get you killed.

Scripture has always placed a high premium on knowledge. When God was bringing the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, He stated repeatedly that He wanted both His people and the Egyptians to “know that I am the Lord” (Exodus 6:7; 10:2; et. al.). After Joshua’s death, a generation arose that did not know the Lord (Judges 2:10). Their sinful behavior brought swift and severe judgments upon them. Israel vacillated between knowledge and ignorance for over 800 years. Finally, God sent His wayward people into captivity to bring them to their senses. He still wanted them to know that He was the Lord. Through the prophet Ezekiel, He set forth that goal no less than 63 times!

Ignorance certainly was not bliss to the captives in Assyria and Babylon. What they didn’t know hurt them gravely. Their failure to know God’s true identity resulted, at least in part, from their ignorance of His word. “For they do not know the way of the Lord, the judgment of their God” (Jeremiah 5:4). “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).

Neither the importance of knowledge nor the destructive nature of ignorance changed when the New Covenant replaced the Old. God wants “all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Eternal destruction, on the other hand, awaits “those who do not know God, and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Heaven’s bliss awaits those who know God and obey His will. May each of us strive to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).



Is It Just Coincidence?

- That soul-winners are positive thinkers?
- That growing churches are filled with servants?
- That those who value grace are terrific at forgiving?
- That those who pray the most worry the least?
- That children brought regularly to Bible class usually remain faithful?

- - - -

Go to your Bible regularly

Open it prayerfully

Read it expectantly

And live it joyfully

via Campbellsville, KY

The Lord’s Day and the Church

Not for nothing is the day that the church meets to eat the Lord’s Supper called the Lord’s day. It is not a day to stay home and think about the Lord Jesus Christ, but a day to celebrate salvation in Him *together*. There is no Lord’s Day without the church.

It’s a day to look each other in the eye and recognize the presence of God in each one, and in our midst.

It’s a day to listen to each other and be built up in faith.

It’s a day to hear how the gospel is reaching more and more people throughout the world.

It’s a day to move as one toward that final meeting with the Lord in the air.

It’s a day to speak to saints and congregation of the need to grow and correct errors that will keep us from receiving the Lord’s approval.

It’s a day to make good on feelings of solidarity by helping to supply the needs of the poor and suffering among us.

It’s a day of thanksgiving as our gratitude finds greater expression through the hearts of brothers and sisters in Christ.

There is no Lord’s day without the church. Be there!

--J. Randal Matheny (Brazil) – via fellowshiproom.org