

The University Heights Messenger

May 30, 2010

Don't Be Ignorant!

By Ken Green

Leroy Brownlow tells in his book "A Time to Laugh; Grandpa Was a Preacher," of one brother in a church business meeting who was accused of being ignorant. The brother declared, "I'll admit I'm ignorant. I wish I was ignorant. I think it's a blessing to be ignorant!"

The gentleman sitting next to him patted him on the back and said, "Brother, you're richly blessed!"

The apostle Paul did not want Christians to be ignorant. One of his favorite expressions was, "I would not have you ignorant." It is interesting and profitable to observe some of the things that we should not be ignorant of.

We should not be ignorant of the plans and the motives of others (**Romans 1:13**). At least, not insofar as we are able to ascertain them. Paul wanted the Christians in Rome to realize that it was not because he did not wish to visit them that he had not done so. He had often planned to travel to Rome, but had been hindered up to that time.

There were likely some who had impugned Paul's motives and sought to discredit him in the estimation of others. "He just doesn't care about you," these may have reported. But nothing could have been further from the truth. Paul had been desiring to preach the gospel in Rome for a long time.

We should not be ignorant of God's desire to save all men (**Romans 11:25**). We easily lose sight of this and assume some are so sinful or unconcerned that the Lord is not interested in them. Paul deals with the Jew-Gentile relationship in Romans 10 and 11. He shows that it was always God's plan to

include the Gentiles in His program (10:19-20). But this does not mean that He was no longer concerned about the Jews. As matters had evolved, it proved to be a benefit for the Gentiles that the Jews had spurned the gospel. But Paul hoped that now that the gospel was fully preached to the Gentiles, the Jews would experience a change of heart and come to faith in Christ Jesus in great numbers. "**God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**" (1 Timothy 2:4).

We should not be ignorant of biblical history (**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**). These things were written for our learning (Romans 15:4). If we are not careful, we may conclude that our temptations and problems are unique, and therefore the Word of God does not deal adequately with them. But Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that "**no temptation has overtaken you except as is common to man.**"

The summary of biblical history that is sketched by the apostle in this chapter is a beautiful illustration of this principle. There could not be two peoples more different than the nomadic masses in the wilderness fifteen hundred years prior to Christ, and the Gentiles who lived in the Grecian city of Corinth that was known worldwide for its corruption and immorality. Yet the temptations were the same. And Paul stresses to those first century Christians that they should avoid the pitfalls that those ancient Jews had fallen into (vv. 6-12).

Biblical history teaches us that regardless of the area of our habitation, our temptations and trials are common to mankind. And regardless of our time or place, the only resource we have is to trust in the faithfulness of God and seek His way of escape.

We should not be ignorant of the troubles of others (**2 Corinthians 1:8**). Often we are so caught up in our own sphere of activity that we are oblivious to the burdens of others. Rather than taking quick offense when someone is harsh with us, let us look beneath the surface. Perhaps that one is carrying a heavy load. Love is kind and longsuffering. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Where possible, let us seek to help bear the burdens of others; and even when we are not in a position to know the situation, let us ever be mindful of the possibility that our brother or neighbor is heavy-burdened.

We should not be ignorant of the hope we have in Christ (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**). We are given five facts here to which we may moor our anchors. First, we are assured that we have God's truth on this matter (v 15). Second, Christ is coming again (vv 14-15). He who brought life and immortality to light at His first coming will come again to usher His people to their eternal inheritance. Third, the dead in Christ will rise first (vv 15-16). Fourth, Christians who are living at the time will be changed and caught up in the air with the saints of all ages (v.17). Finally, Christians will forever be with the Lord.

May every child of God apply himself unto knowledge and give diligence that he not be ignorant of these things.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Esmeralda Agustin continues struggling spiritually.

Glenn Kimberlin remains house bound.

Glen Davis has been diagnosed with a "low grade glioma" in his brain. It is benign and our prayer is that surgery will not become necessary.

Gail Stein and Shannon Gilbert continue treatments for breast cancer.

Robert Brundige, Richard's brother, is in Parkside Manor in Cynthiana dealing with some issues. **Sarah** Brundige, Richard's mother, is in Cambridge Place Nursing Home and in need of our prayer.

Reid Braswell was finally diagnosed with a very rare degenerative neurological disease. The doctors estimate he does not have more than six months to live. Let's continue to pray for he and his family through this difficult time.

Let's also remember **David Day and his wife, Michelle Oxendine, Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our Summer Series is just a few weeks away. Let's start making our plans now to attend.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 5/30-6/5:

Sunday: Judg 9, Ps 110, Rom 16

Monday: Judg 10-11, Ps 111, 1 Cor 1

Tuesday: Judg 12-14, Ps 112, 1 Cor 2-3

Wednesday: Judg 15-16, Ps 113, 1 Cor 4-5

Thursday: Judg 17-18, Ps 114, 1 Cor 6-7

Friday: Judg 19-21, Ps 115, 1 Cor 8-9

Saturday: Ruth 1, Ps 116, 1 Cor 10

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. How duty becomes desire

Sunday PM. The priestly blessing

CLASS INFORMATION:

Lesson 16, section V,