

This is Part III of Chapter 32 and again I encourage you to read it in [pages 177 – 186 for a clear understanding \(click here\)](#). We meet up again with Ignorance who is from the country of Conceit. You can re-read [chapter 27](#) (page 151) and also revisit the review that was done on that chapter in our archived messages. Just as a refresher, here is an excerpt from the review of Ignorance so you have some fresh background on him.

“People like Ignorance are very smart, wise, intellectual people, and yet concerning the message of the cross of Jesus Christ and salvation, they are very ignorant as our character portrays. The spirits of conceit and ignorance go hand-in-hand with regards to religion. Ignorance = Counterfeit Christianity.

- **IGNORANCE means; to have a lack of knowledge or information, unfamiliarity with. You’ve heard the saying, “ignorance is bliss”; well not when it comes to eternal salvation it isn’t.**
- **CONCEIT, the country from where he comes, means; excessive pride in oneself, vanity, narcissism, egotism and self-admiration.**

The crooked path that he’s been walking on shows that many have tried to access heaven from it but it’s a short cut full of selfish man-made religion. Psalm 125:5 says; “As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them away with the workers of iniquity.” Proverbs 26:12 also says; “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” Ignorance is very cocky, extremely confident in his conviction, especially about religion. We don’t see him fleeing his country of Conceit as Christian fled from the City of Destruction yet still walks with an air of confidence and truly wants to go to heaven.”

Although Ignorance ‘looks’ like he walks the walk and talks the talk of a true Christian, his belief is diametrically opposite of Hopeful’s and true Christianity. Ignorance believes in heaven and hell, he believes in Jesus Christ for justification but as he boldly declares in his conversation, he believes his salvation does not only depend on the sole work of Jesus Christ, His perfect righteousness and sacrificial death, but on his self-righteous works. He proves this by his self-righteous audacity of wanting to walk alone and has absolutely no desire for Christian brotherly companionship. **I John 3:10-11** shows that loving our brothers and sisters in Christ is a sign of true righteousness and the proof that God dwells in us; *“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”* It’s said that he is even preaching another gospel, which Paul warns us about in **Galatians 1:6-8** where in the Amplified Bible it says; *“I am astonished and extremely irritated that you are so quickly shifting your allegiance and deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different [even contrary] gospel; which is not another [gospel]; but there are [obviously] some [people masquerading as teachers] who are disturbing and confusing you [with a misleading, counterfeit teaching] and want to distort the gospel of Christ [twisting it into something which is absolutely is not]. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we originally preached to you, let him be condemned to destruction!”*

What’s very clear about Ignorance is that he thinks very highly about himself and that his righteous state is about himself – that he is inherently good; he has good moral thoughts and living, a good heart and good thoughts about his heavenly destination, he’s a dreamer of all things good! While these are admirable characteristics they don’t quantify righteousness before God. We see in him that he is not taking up the cross and denying ‘himself’ as Jesus says he must do in **Luke 14:26-27**; *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sister, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”* Believing that there is a God and heaven isn’t enough as **James 2:19** says; *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!”* Thinking that you have a good heart isn’t enough as **Jeremiah 17:9** says; *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”* and **Proverbs 28:26**; *“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered”*. But Ignorance does not believe his heart is evil or sinful. His thoughts about himself and his heart are not how God sees him. He is really quite ignorant of God (like his own name alludes to).

- We must always judge ourselves by the Word of God, not by ourselves. Only an all holy judge (God) can judge us justly in righteousness.

- We must always see ourselves as the Word of God sees us, not out of our own lens. Even a bad person believes he is inherently good, although he may be bad in some areas of his life. Such a person sees themselves maybe as weak, imperfect or that they've failed, but not as a sinner whom only God can change.

You see that can be the problem with self-help programs or motivational speakers making you feel better about yourself. You may change to the better, but it won't change the wicked sinful nature of your heart. Only Almighty God can do that. Your thinking is good about yourself ONLY when you concur with God's opinion. The Word of God is like a mirror and when you look into it, it judges your heart and shows you what you are like. [Romans 3:9-18](#) shows us that you are born in sin, you are ungodly to the core, there is no righteousness within you and the entire human race is sinful. When we do not agree that we are born unrighteous and sinful, upon this the judgement of God comes according to [Romans 1:18-25](#). The Bible judges our thoughts according to **Hebrews 4:12-13**; *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."* The prophet Isaiah rebuked the children of Israel about their rebellious thoughts, Isaiah 65:2; **"I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts."**

Many today believe as Ignorance did, that their own righteousness will be sufficient to get to heaven. Ignorance in a sense sums up what he believes by saying; *"What are you saying? Would you have us trust in what Christ in his own person has done without [outside of] us?"* He doesn't believe justification only by Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 2:8** *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."* As I said last week, salvation is on God's terms and conditions, not ours.

Remember Hopeful's revelation of Christ Jesus to him by the Father last week? This is something that Ignorance did not have and clearly didn't see the need of it. That's why he could not or would not humble himself before God to acknowledge his personal need of Jesus Christ as his Saviour and receive His righteousness alone. Ignorance chose to be ignorant as **John 3:19** says; *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."* Hopeful understood that his self-righteous acts were like filthy rags and that he could not do anything to become righteous in God's sight. Ignorance chose not to believe this; hence their paths took very different routes, Hopeful's to heaven and that of Ignorance – to hell. Remember, salvation is on God's terms and conditions, not yours. **John 5:40**; *"You are unwilling to come to me [on My term], that you may have life"*.

