

Problems And Solutions - Ignorance Of The Bible

Sunday AM 07/22/18

Introduction:

In a April 2003 survey, 77% of the people said morality in America is going in the wrong direction. In the same survey 88% said they own a Bible, 80% believe the Bible is sacred, 61% wished they read the Bible more. But 57% said they read their Bible 4 times a year or less. Fact: America is largely Bible Illiterate. Not knowing the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Many don't know which came first Noah or Moses or Jesus Christ. Even as you look at those who profess to be Christians the following was found in a survey:

40% of our brotherhood attend only one service each week

50% do not know why instrumental music is not used in worship

35% of the about 50% would not object to congregations using instrumental music in worship

10% believe one church is as good as another.

75% cannot find the plan of salvation in the Bible

I) Defining the Problem

A) Ignorance - lack of knowledge, lack of understanding.

1. Leads to fear, superstition (Mars Hill, *Acts 17.22-23*), and poor decisions (*Acts 3.17*).
 - a. Poor decisions when it comes to the home and how it operates.

- b. Poor decisions when it comes to other lifestyle choices.
 - c. Makes it easy for false teachers, *Romans 16.17-18; Acts 20.29*
2. Two passages come to mind:
- a. *Hosea 4.6* Israel about to be defeated by Assyria around 722 BC and they had willingly rejected God's word. God describes Ephraim as a cake not turned, *Hosea 7.8*.
 - b. Paul speaking at Mars Hill spoke of God no longer overlooking man's ignorance, *Acts 17.30*. Going back a few verses and one sees that God has always worked in man's lives, always been near. Even the Gentiles could not claim ignorance as an excuse. But now we have the Gospel revealed to all mankind.

B) Each generation must learn for itself. *Judges 2.10*.

- 1. We as a society value education. Spend billions of dollars each year in public and private institutions of learning.
 - a. We encourage people to get that education, get a degree, a trade, and even have continuing education classes.
 - b. Most can read and/or have access to materials to learn from.

2. Yet many do not know anything about the Bible.

II) Why?

A) Bible is maligned and often seen as being unimportant.

1. Many have replaced the Bible with creed books, *Romans 10.3*.
2. Councils and conventions have said things such as "in the first century it was... but now it is different."
3. Feelings have replaced book, chapter, and verse.
4. "I think" or "I feel" is viewed as more important than what is said in the scriptures.

B) If the Bible is the word of God

1. Then what we feel or think is not relevant. When did God ever ask people what they thought?
2. The any addition or subtraction from the Bible, which defines what a creed book does, is an abomination to God. The devil only added one word to God's command to Adam and Eve, the word "not". *Deut. 12.32*.
3. What the Apostles taught was the word of God and it is still the same, *Jude 3*.
4. Ignorance is not an excuse, sin is still defined by God's word and applies to everyone, *Lev. 5.18*.

III) Solutions

A) **Change in attitude**

1. We must respect the word of God as being Holy and inspired. Too many claim to believe in the Bible but then discount its teachings as being myths, symbolism, or cultural ideas.
2. The Bible is not just the word of God to be used in the church building. *2 Kings 22.8*.
3. The Bible teaches us about all aspects of our lives.
 - a. Who God is and our relationship to Him.
 - b. How to be saved
 - c. How to worship God
 - d. Organization and work of the church
 - e. Relationships- husband/wife; parent/child; neighbor, enemy.
 - f. Morality
 - g. Ethics in business
 - h. Money- work, indebtedness, lender/lendee relationship
 - i. How to deal with brethren when we disagree
 - j. False teachers
 - k. Unfaithful brethren

I. Young/old relationships, widows, etc.

B) Learn what the Bible says, *2 Timothy 2.15*.

1. Read your Bible and learn its divisions; Old Testament, New Testament.
2. Come to Bible Class and study your Bible lessons before you get here.
3. Listen to the sermons, take notes, meditate upon God's word.
4. Pray for wisdom in apply God's word.
5. Try to teach others about the Bible.

Conclusion:

It used to be said that the people of the church of Christ we a people of the book. They knew the Bible.