“The Ignorance That Was In Them”
Ephesians 4:18

A. What you don't know can hurt you.
   1. In physical matters: “I didn't know the gun was loaded.”
   2. In spiritual matters: (Hos. 4:6; Acts 3:17; 17:23,30; Eph. 4:18)
B. One must know the truth to be saved. (John 8:32)
   1. There is no premium on ignorance — cf. Man in debate.
   2. Gospel must be taught and learned.(Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
C. We want to notice the kinds of ignorance, causes of ignorance and effects of ignorance.

Discussion:
I. Three Principal Kinds Of Ignorance.
   A. Ignorant of content.
      1. Do not know what Bible says because do not read it.
      2. Do not know how to find information because do not know structure. (Ill. “Book of Hezekiah”; Acts in O.T.?)
   B. Ignorant in comprehension.
      1. Because do not take time to learn meaning of words. (cf. prodigal, lascivious, strait, perfect).
      2. Because do not consider the context.
         a. Immediate context. (cf. Mt. 5:48; 1 Cor. 1:17; Nahum 2:4).
         b. General context — times of writers (cf. Mt. 9:16,17; Acts 10:1) — What did they have in mind?
      3. Because do not study language usage.
         a. "Not … but” (Matt. 6:19; Jn. 6:27; 1 Cor. 1:17; 1 Pet. 3:3).
         b. "all (things, men, etc. — Acts 2:44; Rom. 8:28).
   C. Ignorant of applications.
      1. Strong on information, weak on application.
      2. Strong on general principles, but weak on specific applications.
         a. Everyone opposes false teaching—few know a false teacher.
         b. Everyone endorses purity, chastity, modesty — what of specifics?

II. Three Principle Causes Of Ignorance.
   A. Poor information. (Mk. 4:24).
      1. Careless teaching.(1 Tim. 4:16).
   B. Poor inclination to learn more. (cf. 1 Pet. 2:2)
      1. Due to indifference — need to hunger and thirst. (cf. Mt. 5:6).
      2. Due to pride (cf. John 9:34; 2 Pet. 1:10,15).
   C. Poor execution of what do know. (John 8:31,32; Heb. 5:12-14).

III. Three Principle Effects of Ignorance.
   A. Alienation from God. (Rom. 10:1-3).
   B. Apostasy from God. (Hos. 4:6; Heb. 5:12-14).
   C. Awful harm to God's way. (1 Tim. 1:13; cf. Acts 8:1-4)

Conclusion:
   A. Let us improve our knowledge.
   B. Let us obey what we know to do!