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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Fundamentals of the Faith
Inspiration; part 2 (Mk 16:19-20)

PM Sermon:

Preparing for Solid Spiritual Food

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Daniel – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts 11 – V. Smith

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Vance' Program on Wednesdays
@ 6:15pm & Thursdays @ 6:15am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @ 5pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen or visit
www.oologahradio.org for more info.

The Oologah Informer

Oct 2nd, 2016

Is Ignorance An Excuse?

Part 2 of 2

by Chuck Northrop

Sin Condemns, Not the Gospel

What causes a person to be lost is sin. Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Death is separation. Physical death is the separation of body and spirit (James 2:26), while spiritual death is separation from God. Notice what Isaiah wrote to Israel of old: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). It is sin that separates man from God—not God's sins but man's sins. What causes a person to be separated from God is NOT his or her knowledge of the gospel. It is sin.

If a person could be saved because of ignorance, then the gospel is not a gospel of salvation, it is a gospel of condemnation. If an African tribesman who is isolated from the rest of the world and who never had the opportunity to hear the gospel can be saved because of his ignorance, then when the gospel is preached to him, it would bring condemnation rather than salvation if he did not respond to it favorably. It would not be "the glorious gospel" (1 Timothy 1:11), it would be the horrible gospel. It would not be "the gospel of peace" (Romans 10:15), it would be the gospel of conflict. It would not be "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24), it would be the gospel of the brutality of God. There would be no "hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1:23), only despair.

This justification through ignorance would make the gospel of no power rather than "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). It would make the "Great Commission" of Jesus useless, unproductive, and vain. Yea, even the sacrifice of Jesus would have no value if man could be saved through ignorance. It would be better for the world not to know than to know and to be condemned. If man could be saved in ignorance, we are doing no favors to anyone by teaching the gospel. We ought not name the name of Christ among the nations for it would be better to leave every person untaught.

Responsibility

To some, these things are hard. However, the hardness is not seen in that they are unloving. Jesus Christ paid the price for every person and that price was His own precious blood. For "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Because God "will have all men to be saved," Christ Jesus "gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy

2:4,6). “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). These are the most loving words to ever pierce the hearing of man. These things are hard because of the weight of responsibility placed upon every person.

To those who are ignorant of spiritual matters, it is your responsibility to know God and to obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8). God would not have you to be ignorant but “to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4) and to purify your souls by obeying the truth (1 Peter 1:22). To obey the truth, you must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 8:24) and turn from your sins by repenting (Luke 13:3). You then must be “buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). When you are buried with Him by baptism, the Lord adds you to His church (Acts 2:47). If you are faithful in this new life even unto death, Jesus promises that He will give unto you “a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

To those who are the children of God, we are to publish and to herald His word to the four corners of the earth. If we really care about that isolated, ignorant and unenlightened tribesman, we would do everything in our power to send the gospel light to the far reaches of the world. We would not hold back the gospel, but proclaim it at every dawning of the morning and every dusk of the evening. And like the apostle Paul, we would feel indebted to every man and we would be compelled to preach the gospel (Romans 1:14-15). Because ignorance is no excuse, woe is unto us, if we preach not the gospel! (1 Corinthians 9:16).