

Is Ignorance Truly Bliss?

Have you ever really thought about the assertions made by those who squawk about the supposed need for positive preaching? Arguments are made, such as “why expose someone as a teacher of error, it doesn’t do anything other than impugn the character of the man,” or “why teach about discipline, it never works anyway,” or “why not just teach about the error, not those who preach it,” or “we can never understand the Bible alike.” These examples seem silly when read by the diligent student of God’s perfect will, but unfortunately there are many brethren today who openly and unashamedly express just these kinds of ideas.

There are many brethren who would have you believe that ignorance of things that endanger your very soul is truly bliss. Why is it that so many today will not stand for preaching that exposes error? Is it possible that to be informed about such error would require to hearer to take a stand against it? Of course, but the growing movement to stifle the exposition of error has unfortunately born much fruit for the devil. What does God’s word have to say about being ignorant of the wiles of the devil and the evils that we face in this life?

In the book of Romans chapter 10 verses 1-3, Paul writes:

Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

The inspired writing of Paul teaches us that there were those who desired to be enlightened of God, but their desire was not born out of knowledge, and they were ignorant of God’s righteousness. Brethren, in order for us to grow spiritually we must diligently seek God. Part and parcel of seeking God is studying His will and making every effort to apply it to our lives with urgency. If we do not diligently seek God we will find ourselves ignorant of His will and unacceptable in His sight. Hebrews chapter 5 and verses 12 through 14 says:

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Is this the condition that we find ourselves in today? Are we inadequate for the task of teaching and spreading the blessed gospel of Christ because we have not grown in the knowledge of His will? May it never be!

Sadly the effort to maintain an ignorance of error is simply a tool for those who espouse the idea of “unity in diversity.” We must wake up brethren, and soon, or what we have known in times past as the church of Christ will be indistinguishable from the denominations that pervade modern religion, rife with error and unacceptable in the sight of Jehovah God. We must make a stand on God’s word and prepare ourselves to do His will. Consider Romans chapter 12 and verse 2, which says:

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We must not stand on the ideas of this world in relation to God’s will. We are to be transformed, that is converted or changed, in the way that we think in order to acceptable to God. So ask yourself this question, is ignorance of God’s will or ignorance of the wiles of the devil a blissful state in which to find yourself? Further, is ignorance born out of a desire to be unified with those outside of God’s will acceptable? Obviously the

answer to both questions is an emphatic no. Brethren, we must hold up the hands of those exposing error and teaching God's will in its truth and simplicity, and we must strive for a better knowledge of the will of God as it is truly the only pursuit in this life that matters.