

5-Day Devotional: Is Ignorance Bliss?

AM Message by Bro. Mike Bentley – September 27, 2026

Day 1: The Cost of Not Knowing

Reading: Hosea 4:1-6

Devotional: The prophet Hosea delivered a sobering warning to God's people -- destruction was not coming because of an enemy's strength, but because of their own lack of knowledge. They had forgotten the law of God, and that forgetting carried a devastating price. Ignorance of God's Word is never a neutral condition. It leaves us exposed, vulnerable, and drifting toward sin without even recognizing the danger. Today, ask yourself honestly: How much time do I invest in knowing God through His Word? Knowledge is not optional for the believer -- it is essential armor. Choose to pursue it daily.

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today to read a passage of Scripture you have never studied before. Write down one thing you learned that you did not previously know.

Day 2: Ignorance Is Not Innocence

Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Acts 17:29-31

Devotional: Paul makes clear in 2 Thessalonians 1 that two groups will face the wrath of God at the Lord's return -- those who do not obey the gospel, and those who do not know God. This is a sobering truth. Not knowing does not equal not being accountable. In Acts 17, Paul declared that God once overlooked times of ignorance, but now commands all people everywhere to repent. The era of excuse has passed. The gospel has gone into the world. The remedy is available. God is not looking for perfection -- He is looking for pursuit. Pursue Him today with everything you have.

Practical Application: Think of someone in your life who does not yet know God. Pray specifically for that person today, and consider one step you could take toward sharing the gospel with them this week.

Day 3: The Remedy Is the Word

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 5:15-17

Devotional: Paul's instruction to Timothy carries an urgency that is just as relevant today as it was in the first century. The believer is called to be diligent -- a hard, steady, committed worker -

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- in handling the Word of truth accurately. Ephesians 5 reinforces this, urging us not to be unwise but to understand what the will of the Lord is. The Bible is not a book reserved for scholars or preachers. It is God's living communication to every soul He created. The light does not turn on by itself. You must open the Word, sit with it, and allow it to speak. Understanding grows through consistent engagement.

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where you feel spiritually uncertain or confused. Search the Scriptures this week specifically on that topic. Write down what you find and how it applies to your situation.

Day 4: What Love Drove Him to Do

Reading: Romans 5:6-8; John 8:24; Luke 13:3

Devotional: Romans 5 presents one of the most stunning declarations in all of Scripture -- that while we were still sinners, without strength, without righteousness, Christ died for us. This was not love extended to the deserving. It was love poured out on the undeserving. He left the glory of heaven, took on human flesh, faced every temptation we face, and then went to the cross -- not for His own sake, but for ours. John 8 and Luke 13 remind us that belief and repentance are not optional responses to this love. They are the necessary response. Christ did the hard part. He asks us to come to Him in trusting, obedient faith.

Practical Application: Spend time today in prayer, specifically thanking God for the sacrifice of Christ on your behalf. If there is sin in your life that you have not fully surrendered, bring it before God honestly and ask for the strength to repent.

Day 5: Faithful to the End

Reading: Revelation 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:1-4

Devotional: The Christian life does not end at baptism -- it begins there. Romans 6 describes the believer rising from the waters of baptism to walk in newness of life, a new creation in Christ. But that new life must be sustained, nurtured, and protected through continued growth in the knowledge and grace of God. Revelation 2:10 presents the Lord's great promise and His great expectation side by side -- remain faithful unto death, and He will give the crown of life. Faithfulness is not a single moment. It is a daily decision to keep knowing, keep growing, and keep walking with God. The crown is worth every step of the journey.

Practical Application: Write down three specific commitments you will make this week to grow spiritually -- whether in Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, or service. Share at least one of those commitments with a trusted fellow believer who can encourage and hold you accountable.