

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge
Or
Politically Incorrect/Biblically Correct
August 12, 2018

I **SLIDE** News

A) Pastor meets with President

- 1) Pastor Van Moody of The Worship Center Christian Church in Birmingham, AL met with President Trump about a week ago
- 2) He was one of many inner-city faith leaders who met with Pres. Trump to discuss the importance of the church in prison reform and building community
- 3) Now, what do you see wrong with that?
- 4) Pastor Moody wrote, "I am on record as disagreeing with President Trump, including on aspects of his immigration policy. However, I would happily hop on a plane to Washington again if I were invited to sit down and talk through other issues that will help the disenfranchised, marginalized and voiceless..."
- 5) Pres. Trump told Moody and the others that he is concerned about the incredible challenges our prisoners and former prisoners face under the current system. He said his administration is currently working on prison reform legislation to help.
- 6) Pastor Moody thanked the President for this and for "caring for all people."
- 7) Following the meeting, Pastor Van Moody met with extreme criticism
- 8) I am saddened that a pastor that I've respected for several years has basically co-signed the Christian foolery that president [#Trump](#) is perpetuating. [@Van_Moody](#) I am very disappointed. [#VanMoody](#) [#Trump](#) [#ChristianFoolery](#)
— Angela Haynes (@angela_denise25) [August 2, 2018](#)

- 9) My daughter attends his church....I cant tell her what do...but he lost my respect! Trump not interested in helping blacks...! He needs our votes! WAKE UP!!!!

— Angela L. Kennedy (@alk3125) [August 4, 2018](#)

- 10) Baltimore Rev. Jamal Bryant stated, "This is a stain on the body of Christ. This is a stain on our community. I need to know how all of y'all were smiling at that table while the whole world frowns at what this represents and what it looks like. The blood is dripping off your hands."

B) Why begin with this story?

- 1) It clearly illustrates the need for this message: We Perish for Lack of Knowledge
- 2) This is not an attack on a pastor, a church, a movement,
- 3) It is a warning for all of us

II Knowledge

A) Proverbs 29:18

- 1) **SLIDE Proverbs 29:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.
- 2) **SLIDE Proverbs 29:18 (ICB)** ¹⁸ Where there is no word from God, people are uncontrolled. But those who obey what they have been taught are happy.
- 3) **SLIDE Proverbs 29:18 (AMP)** ¹⁸ Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.
- 4) **SLIDE** Definition of revelation, vision, word
 - a) Divine specific communication between God and us through the prophetic office
 - b) Prophetic words that align with God's Word and not our desires
 - c) Guiding communication from the LORD
 - d) I have used this passage to talk about a vision for this church

- e) But that is only part of this passage
- f) Communication from prophetic office must support the Bible
- g) We too often ignore the written Word for the new prophetic word
- 5) Where there is no knowledge of the Word from God, people cast off restraint, are uncontrolled, and perish.
- 6) This speaks to believers

B) **SLIDE** Hosea

- 1) **Hosea 4:6 (NIV)** ⁶ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.
- 2) **Hosea 4:6 (NJB)** ⁶ My people perish for want of knowledge. Since you yourself have rejected knowledge, so I shall reject you from my priesthood; since you have forgotten the teaching of your God, I in my turn shall forget your children.
- 3) Destroyed/Perish
 - a) Verb meaning to cease, to be silent
 - b) Destruction of people who have no knowledge
 - c) Destruction of a nation

C) What does this have to do with the opening story?

- 1) How can Christians trash other Christian for meeting with the President of this nation?
- 2) How can Christians put political conditions on salvation?
- 3) How can Christians accept only part of the Bible?
- 4) How can we not know what sin is?
- 5) Because of a lack of knowledge!!
- 6) Again, this is not about the President or politics
- 7) **It is about kingdom principles**
 - a) Explain kingdom
 - b) Anything that does not align with our King's principles will fail
 - c) Lack of knowledge causes us to embrace things of this world instead of things of the Kingdom

- 8) Believers are turning on pastors who chose to meet with the President to help those in prisons
- 9) These "believers" consider Pres. Trump disgusting, a bigot, a monster, the enemy
- 10) Where do you think Jesus would stand if Pres. Trump invited Jesus to a meeting?

D) Let's look at the Word

- 1) **SLIDE 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)** ¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior. ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
- 2) **SLIDE Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)** ⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
- 3) **SLIDE Luke 5:32 (NIV)** [Jesus declared,] ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

E) **SLIDE** Last part of Proverbs 21:18

- 1) **Proverbs 29:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ ... blessed is he who keeps the law.
- 2) **Proverbs 29:18 (ICB)** ¹⁸ ... those who obey what they have been taught are happy.
- 3) **Proverbs 29:18 (AMP)** ¹⁸ ... he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he.

- 4) How can we keep the word of God if we do not know the Word of God?
 - 5) Yet, we have no excuse for not knowing it. None.
- F) **SLIDE** Charisma Magazine -Doug Clay
- 1) The challenges we face as a nation and as a church will require us to equip the next generation with the tools necessary for spiritual battle. We must daily rely on the Holy Spirit's empowerment and leading in three specific areas.
 - 2) **Sacred Sexuality**
 - 3) **Perpetual Pentecost**
 - 4) **SLIDE Biblical Literacy.** Biblical literacy is one of the biggest issues facing the church today. When I use this term, I mean the ability to understand and use the Bible to apply truth to one's life. Biblical literacy is necessary to our faith and essential for Christian growth, doctrinal understanding, and development of a Godly worldview.
- G) Classes/teachers
- 1) Bible studies
 - 2) Sunday morning classes
 - 3) Teachers - one of the best ways to learn is to teach
 - 4) We need to know Jesus and His word
 - 5) Biblical view instead of a worldview

STOP

III Lack of Knowledge

A) Wired Word

- 1) For purposes of its research, LifeWay considers respondents as having evangelical beliefs if they strongly agree with all four of these statements:
 - a) The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.
 - b) It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.

- c) Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
- d) Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.
- 2) I read and those and stopped
- 3) These are the truths to define evangelicals?
- 4) These are the truths that should define any follower of Jesus Christ!
- 5) However sad it may be, they do not
- 6) Lack of knowledge
- B) **Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
 - 1) "Leave" means we move past them
 - 2) These elementary beliefs form the foundation for building a mature faith and life in Christ
 - 3) What are these elementary teachings?
 - a) Repentance
 - b) Faith in God
 - c) Baptism and laying on of hands
 - d) Resurrection and eternal judgment
- C) Lack of knowledge
 - 1) A lack of knowledge has kept us from leaving these elementary teachings and moving toward a mature faith
 - 2) The church is still arguing about the Bible, need for repentance (we cannot even decide what is sin and what is not), Jesus is the ONLY way to the Father, and reality of heaven and hell
 - 3) This lack of knowledge makes it very difficult for us to avoid the deception about which Jesus warned us
- D) **Matthew 24:3-4 (NIV)** ³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when

will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

- 1) The very first thing Jesus mentions is about being deceived
- 2) Deceive means: a wandering; to cause to wander; to lead astray; to seduce people from the truth

E) Classes/teachers

- 1) Bible studies
- 2) Sunday morning classes
- 3) Teachers - one of the best ways to learn is to teach

F) Christians should not meet with the president

G) Christians cannot vote for Trump

H) Christians are favoring political correctness over Biblical knowledge

I) We do not know the Bible

J) We do not know our history

K) We do not know the truth from fairy tales

L) We place our feelings above the truth

M) We place our wants about the wants of others

N) We favor those who agree with us instead of engaging those who are lost

O) We sacrifice parts of the Bible in the name of compassion, which means we sacrifice the Bible itself

P) We want the church to please us instead of our wanting to please Jesus

Q) We bow down to science and theories while refusing to bow our knees to THE King

R) We allow people to modify our history because we do not know our history

S) We embrace socialism - Acts 2:44 (this is voluntary giving)

T) Failure should be wiped out. We all have a right not to fail. Right to "Guaranteed Success"

U) Entitlement

NOTES FOR FURTHER MESSAGES

A) Isaiah 42:9 and 43:18-19

II **SLIDE** Christ, the Son of the Living God

A) Isaiah

- 1) **Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)** ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

III **SLIDE** What we are called to do?

A) What does God call Isaiah and us to do at times like this?

B) **Isaiah 40:1-5 (NIV)** ¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

C) **SLIDE**

D) Christmas

E) **SLIDE Matthew 16:15-18 (NIV)** ¹⁵ "But what about you?" [Jesus] asked. "Who do you say I am?"

- 1) We answer this with our mouths and with our actions
- 2) Night in Bethlehem is one to tell others Who and what we believe

A) Isaiah 40

- 1) **Isaiah 40:1-5 (NIV)** ¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 2) **Isaiah 40:6-8 (NIV)** ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."
- 3) **Isaiah 40:9-31 (NIV)** ⁹ You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

- 4) ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³ Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor? ¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? ¹⁵ Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust. ¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires, nor its animals enough for burnt offerings. ¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing. ¹⁸ To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to? ¹⁹ As for an idol, a craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it. ²⁰ A man too poor to present such an offering selects wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not topple.
- 5) ²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? ²² He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. ²³ He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. ²⁴ No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. ²⁵ "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his

great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

6)

B) **SLIDE** Transition

- 1) The transition from one generation to another took seven years
- 2) During that time, Elijah continued to serve as God's prophet
- 3) During that time, Elisha learned from Elijah by observing and serving this man of God
- 4) **2 Kings 3:11 (NIV)** [When Israel was at war with Moab] ¹¹ ... Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD through him?" An officer of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."
- 5) **SLIDE** Elisha was known as the one who poured water on the hands of Elijah
- 6) Elisha was not embarrassed of that reputation; he embraced it
- 7) It spoke of humility, love, servanthood, obedience
- 8) **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)** ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- 9) Those seven years were not wasted; they were a time to wait upon the Lord

C) **SLIDE** **Isaiah 40:31 (AMP)** But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] / Will gain new strength *and* renew

their power; / They will lift up their wings [and rise up close to God] like eagles [rising toward the sun]; / They will run and not become weary, / They will walk and not grow tired.

- 1) When we began this messages about Elijah and Elisha, I shared that, like Elijah, I had run to that cave
- 2) I felt that my time was over and that I was alone
- 3) The best course was for me to step aside
- 4) My control had gotten in the way, and I needed to step aside so someone else could fix things
- 5) Well, I was wrong
- 6) However, I still find myself slipping into old mindsets
- 7) We have been on these messages for six months
- 8) It does not seem much has changed so I find myself wanting to help Jesus to make something happen
- 9) I need to try more so you will not get discouraged
- 10) When I update the church app, we have very little under the Events tab while other churches are doing one thing after another
- 11) I feel we are falling behind, missing God
- 12) Fortunately, I know that is the wrong attitude and approach
- 13) Six months to God is a blink of an eye
- 14) We are in that waiting upon the Lord stage so He can renew our strength and power
- 15) We are learning to walk, run, and fly like never before
- 16) God does not need our help; He needs our participation

STOP

II Meanwhile, while Elijah and Elisha are getting to know each other....

A) **1 Kings 20:13-14 (NIV)** ¹³ Meanwhile a prophet came to Ahab king of Israel and announced, "This is what the LORD says: 'Do you see this vast army? I will give it into your hand today, and then you will know that I am the LORD.'" ¹⁴ "But who will do this?" asked Ahab.

The prophet replied, "This is what the LORD says: 'The young officers of the provincial commanders will do it.'" "And who will start the battle?" he asked. The prophet answered, "You will."

B) Despite Israel's disobedience and her leaders' hardness toward God, God does not abandon them. When Israel faced this enemy, God came to their aid, not because they deserved it but because He is faithful.

C) God tells Ahab the young officers will fight. God may be using the young officers to show that they need God. Also, it shows that the generations had to learn to fight together. There was no room for competition when they faced an enemy.

D) Also, despite Ahab and Jezebel's attempts to wipe out God's prophets, they were not successful. When the situation became difficult, they listened to God's prophet, and that brought them victory.

E) Finally, we see a pattern whenever Israel met an enemy. God gave them instructions. Today, we want to separate our military from God. Today, we face numerous enemies that want to destroy us, and we have leaders who feel we do not need God. Thank God for His faithfulness.

F) Despite all that Ahab has done against God, God still uses him. One would expect God to remove Ahab and put in a more righteous king. Yet, that is not God's plan. God will use Ahab, a man who has denied God, to fulfill His purpose.

G) We should not be surprised at whom God chooses to use. He even chooses to use me.

H) Because we do not see as God sees, it is difficult for us to know whom God will use.

I **SLIDE** Coalgate

A) Our small town

- 1) Jed and Jesse
- 2) Ridge and his wife
- 3) Tommy and Katie
- 4) Clayton and Tina
- 5) Rhett
- 6) Bridgette Delsigne
- 7) Brandon and Tonya Long
- 8) Major Brandon and Britton Young
- 9) **SLIDE** Makaela Barnes-Elkins