

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge:  
Return to Elementary School, Part 3

September 9, 2018

I **SLIDE** Knowledge

A) Scriptures

- 1) **Hosea 4:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> 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) **John 6:28-29 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> Then [the people] asked [Jesus], "What must we do to do the works God requires?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

B) **SLIDE** Jesus' warnings

- 1) **John 16:1-3 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] <sup>1</sup> "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.
- 2) **John 18:28 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.
  - a) This seems ironic, but that is not the right word
  - b) They are perishing for a lack of knowledge
  - c) They would become unclean if they entered the place of Gentiles, so they do not enter
  - d) However, they cannot see the danger of unjustly condemning an innocent man.
  - e) They feel righteous when they are perishing.

- f) A lack of understanding causes us to place ourselves in situations where we are opposing God while we believe we are serving God

## II **SLIDE** Repentance

### A) Repentance

- 1) Change of mind
- 2) Change of mind from evil to good **or** from good to better
- 3) Turn from a former attitude
- 4) Turn around and go the opposite direction
- 5) A reversal
- 6) Being sorry usually does not bring change because sorrow comes from us
- 7) Repentance stems from a desire to change, a change that only Jesus can bring

### B) So, why do we have to return to this elementary truth?

- 1) We are seeking knowledge without the love of Jesus
- 2) We are replacing God's knowledge with a feel-good knowledge of man
- 3) We have rejected the idea of original sin and, thus, our need for repentance
- 4) We are living in a time when people justify their actions by blaming them on others (i.e. justification)
- 5) Our enlightened culture has shown us that sin is not sin; it is a right, a freedom, a choice
- 6) The word of God is no longer written in stone; instead, it is written in invisible ink

## III **SLIDE** Acts that lead to death

### A) **SLIDE** Works or acts

- 1) Labor, business, employment
- 2) Deed, act, an action

- 3) Any product whatever, anything accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind

B) Dead

- 1) Lifeless
- 2) Inanimate
- 3) Useless
- 4) Spiritually dead
- 5) Inactive in respect to doing right

C) **SLIDE** Paul tells us that we need to turn from **ALL** acts, business, hobbies, or thoughts that result in making us spiritually dead

- 1) These acts or thoughts render us useless to doing good
- 2) They take the life out of us
- 3) These dead works fall into two categories: sin and false or legalistic religion
- 4) Unrepentant sin but, primarily, false or legalistic religion as Paul is addressing Jews and the church

D) Sin

- 1) One would think the church could agree on what constitutes sin
- 2) All sin results in death and separation from God
- 3) **SLIDE** So, what constitutes sin? Anything that is outside Jesus Christ
- 4) Sin means "missing the mark"
- 5) Sin is anything that causes us to miss the heart of Jesus
- 6) Sin is anything that goes against Jesus' nature, His Word, or His ministry

E) **SLIDE** False or legalistic religion

- 1) This is our main focus
- 2) Pharisees
- 3) Legalistic religion that consists of man's "rules" will not give us life; it will render us lifeless
- 4) Religion based upon good works instead of faith in Jesus
- 5) It is religion that emphasizes tradition and rituals instead of a living Christ

- 6) It is a dependence upon ourselves or people instead of upon Jesus
  - 7) It is our making the church what we want it to be instead of what Jesus wants it to be
  - 8) It is transforming the church to fit our lives and lifestyles instead of allowing the church via the Holy Spirit to transform us
- F) **SLIDE Romans 3:20 (NIV)** <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin
- 1) Today, we hear a great deal about "social justice"
  - 2) What society determines is right or wrong
  - 3) This is pervading the church
  - 4) The church is allowing society to determine how Christians should act and what the Church should do
  - 5) We are allowing society to tell us what is right and what is wrong
- G) **SLIDE** Therefore, we need to repent of our sins and of our "good" deeds that do not have the life of Jesus in them
- 1) These "useless rituals" lead to death because they negate the need for repentance which allows sin to abound
  - 2) We need to repent of making church what we want instead of what Jesus wants
- H) **SLIDE** Notice that Paul does not mention Jesus or the blood of Jesus in these foundational truths
- 1) However, if we look more closely at repentance, we will see that we cannot have true repentance without Jesus
  - 2) Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE
  - 3) Repentance involves turning from works that lead to death to works that lead to life
  - 4) We cannot change hearts of stone into hearts of flesh
  - 5) So, because Jesus is the LIFE, then repentance means turning to Jesus
  - 6) We can only turn to Jesus if we seek His forgiveness
  - 7) Forgiveness requires the shedding of blood

8) Only Jesus shed His blood for us

9) Only Jesus gave His life for us

I) Therefore, true repentance and forgiveness can only be found in and through Jesus

1) When Paul was talking about repentance from acts that lead to death, he was talking about the blood of Jesus

2) How often do we need to repent?

3) As often as we need to!

J) Imagine.....

God decides to bring everything out into the open. He asks us about our sin

Jim: I don't always tell the truth. JIM: LIAR

Bob: I complain about my boss & job all the time. BOB:COMPLAINER

Shelly: I talk about others. SHELLY: GOSSIP

Bill: I sure do covet my neighbor's new corvette. BILL: COVETER

Laura: All I think about is making more money. LAURA: GREED

June. Adultery. JUNE: ADULTERER

Sam: I repeated a story over the phone. SAM: GOSSIP

All stand condemned; every one of us deserves a tag. But, then Jesus comes along and says, "Give me your tags."

One by one, He takes them and pins them on Himself, leaving the others without sin. This is repentance. Repentance is not hiding the tag but admitting that the tag is ours. It is coming to Christ, asking Him to take it from us. Do you want to give your tag to Jesus or keep it for yourself?

**SLIDE 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **COMMUNION**