

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge
Or
Politically Incorrect/Biblically Correct
Part 2
August 19, 2018

I **SLIDE** 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.

a) Perish or Cast-off Restraint

- i) This does not mean that people are going to hell
- ii) It does mean that people are casting of the restraint of God's word and are heading that way
- iii) It means that we replace THE knowledge of God with our knowledge of God so we do what is right in our own eyes
- iv) It means that when stop seeking God and His word and replace it with what we THINK or WANT His word to say, then we will perish, as will society
- v) It means that we are in trouble because we believe we are obeying God when we are disobeying Him

2) Judges

- a) In Judges 17, we meet Micah, who has hired a Levite to be his priest
- b) The priest made his own ephod and his own idols
- c) Later, five men steal Micah's idols and hire away his priest
- d) In Judges 10, we meet another Levite
- e) Levites were to be set apart for service to God as His priests and were to remain pure
- f) This priest has a concubine, who was not faithful to him
- g) The Levite goes after her, and, after spending several days at her father's house, returns with her

- h) One night, reminiscent of Sodom, some men pound on the door of the house in which they were staying.
- i) Because of the men's threats, the Levite sends his concubine outside where the men rape and abuse her all night long
- j) At daybreak, the concubine makes it back to the house, which was still locked, and falls at the door, where she stays until daylight.
- k) The Levite gets up, goes outside, sees his concubine, and tells her, "Get up; let's go."
- l) She does not answer so he puts her on his donkey
- m) When he got home, he cut up his dead concubine into twelve pieces and sent a piece to each of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- n) "Something must be done," he demanded.
- 3) And there is more. Thus, Judges ends with this verse: In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

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.
- a) Destroyed/Perish: Verb meaning to cease, **to be silent**
- b) We can see from Judges, that God's people ceased to be God's people
- c) They were silent in the face of evil
- d) They became the world instead of changing the world
- e) Their silence was deafening
- f) Today, we hear a great deal about the Bible and about God, but it is not the truth
- g) Where is the voice of the church - of you and me?
- C) Another aspect of perishing from a lack of knowledge: current events
- 1) Our first understanding is a lack of God, Jesus, and the Word

- 2) If we do not know the Bible, then we will be easily deceived into thinking we know the Bible
- 3) We will fall for every doctrine, interpretation, or idea that tickles our ears or helps us fit into the world
- 4) If we do not know the Bible, then we cannot obey Christ's commands
- 5) However, the Lord showed me that we can also perish from a lack of knowledge that is necessary to our spiritual lives
- 6) Examples
 - a) Marlboro Man - how many people perished from a lack of knowledge about cigarettes?
 - b) Nuclear bomb drills
 - c) Worshipping the sun - cancer
 - d) Asbestos
 - e) The government gives us our rights
 - f) Jesus would support taking from the rich and giving to the poor
 - g) Abortion is health care for women
- D) Therefore, we will look at this lack of knowledge from a Biblical perspective and from current events
 - 1) Because we cannot separate the two
 - 2) We are Kingdom people who live in a sinful world
 - 3) **SLIDE Matthew 10:16 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] ¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.
 - 4) This can be a confusing command because of Jesus' use of "serpent" or "snake"
 - 5) Yet, He is warning His disciples and us and giving us sound, important advice
 - 6) Jesus was preparing the disciples for what was to occur throughout the whole world. They are being taught a new kind of warfare. ACCS

- 7) Innocent/harmless as doves
 - a) This does not mean stupid, naïve, or childish
 - b) We are sheep of His pasture
 - c) We are to be without deceit, to be honorable, faithful to our king
 - d) We are to be gentle, loving, slow to anger, slow to speak, quick to listen
 - e) We are ambassadors of our King, Jesus Christ
- 8) At the same time, we are to be as shrewd as snakes
 - a) This means to be prudent, wise in relationships and dealings, and thinking
 - b) No one could trick or trap Jesus because He was shrewd, wise, knowledgeable of the people and the world around Him
 - c) Innocent as doves does not mean we are to be as gullible as children
 - d) Wise as serpents means we are to know the ways, the traps, the devices of a wicked world
 - e) We will perish if we go into the world as sheep among wolves and cannot spot a wolf
 - f) We will perish if our innocence makes us easy targets.
 - g) So, when someone tries to trap us by saying, "And you say you are a Christian," we will know what to say
 - h) Too often this statement confounds Christians so that they retreat
 - i) So, what would you say?
- E) So, we will be looking at some seemingly random topics
 - 1) These examples are topics the Lord has placed on my mind
 - 2) Each one is to serve as an illustration as to how the knowledge of the Lord will bless us, equip us, and make us more than conquerors

II **SLIDE** First, elementary school

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) When I read this, I was amazed
- 3) These should be the fundamental, elementary truths, of our faith
- 4) This is not an attack on others
- 5) It shows the truth that people perish for a lack of knowledge

B) **SLIDE** 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) **SLIDE** What are these elementary teachings?
 - a) Repentance - Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - b) **SLIDE** Faith in God - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
 - c) **SLIDE** Baptism and laying on of hands - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.

d) **SLIDE** Resurrection and eternal judgment - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.

C) **SLIDE** 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) **SLIDE** **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
- 3) One of our greatest dangers is thinking we know enough, thinking God is speaking to others, or thinking we cannot be deceived

E) Prayer

- 1) So, what do we do?
- 2) We are not to fear - we pray
- 3) If we feel we have a lack of knowledge - we pray and learn