



CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST

working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



*"Jesus answered and said to her,
'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I
shall give him will become in him a fountain of
of water springing up into everlasting life.'" (John 4:13, 14)*

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS

The majority of this world are rushing toward hell without knowing about it (Matthew 7:13). Many would change if they but knew. But they are ignorant of the matter, and thus are blindly headed for destruction. This is truly sad.

Amazingly, many who value knowledge of this world's things seem to be content in their ignorance of spiritual matters. We wonder why, when it is that this world is "passing away" and an eternity in heaven or hell hangs in the balance (1 John 2:17; Matthew 25:46).

The Bible nowhere glorifies spiritual ignorance, but rather lauds and extols knowledge and wisdom. "*Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.*" "*If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God*" (Proverbs 4:7; 2:4-5).

Ignorance of God's will is not bliss. It leads to disobedience, and God does not excuse sin on the basis of "I didn't know any better."

"*In ignorance*" the Jews "*killed the Prince of life,*" Jesus. Did their lack of knowledge excuse them? No, for they were told to "*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...*" (Acts 3:15-19).

Saul (Paul) persecuted Christians "*ignorantly in unbelief.*" Did his unawareness absolve him of any accountability? No, he was a lost man in his ignorance and was consequently told to "*arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the LORD*" (1 Timothy 1:13; Acts 22:16). Later he preached that earlier "*times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent*" (Acts 17:30).

Ignorance (whether willful or not) is not bliss. Not knowing that a bridge is out will not save you if you try to drive over it. Just so, not knowing the way of salvation will not save you if you are headed for eternal destruction. The Lord Jesus is coming one day "*in flaming fire taking*

vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:8).

Why then would anyone remain content in their ignorance of God's will? *"The truth shall make you free,"* Jesus said (John 8:32). *"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).*

--Mike Noble