



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#111)

Defective faith: The fact foundation missing.

1

DEFECTIVE FAITH

⇒ Is this my FAITH?

- Genuine fact-based living FAITH is a saving faith.
- But what if my faith is...

✓ Defective in its FACT foundation?	✓ Defective in its LIVING expression?
✓ False (= deception) ✓ Rejected (= unbelief) ✓ Missing (= ignorance)	✓ Small (= "little faith") ✓ Wavering (= doubt) ✓ Absent (= not there)

TODAY

2

NOT KNOWING THE FACT FOUNDATION.

This has to do with ignorance of the facts.

IS IT REALLY A SIN TO NOT KNOW SOMETHING?

SOMETIMES, IT CAN BE GOOD, BAD OR NEUTRAL, DEPENDING ON THE CONTEXT.

THE EFFECTS OF CONTEXT (EXAMPLES RELATED TO PEOPLE).

- A "neutral" fact:** At first, Paul was personally unknown by the churches in Judea – Galatians 1:22.
- A lie:** People knew who the Apostle Paul was; but his enemies claimed that he was unknown (an insignificant "nobody") – 2 Corinthians 6:9.
- An obligation:** We are to ignore people who ignore Paul's authority – yet claim to speak for God – 1 Corinthians 14:38.

3

SOMETIMES IGNORANCE IS SIN.

It is sin when:

- You should have known it.
- You neglected the opportunity to know it – whether by direct choice, or indirectly (by other choices you made).

I DIDN'T KNOW...

FAITH?

This lack of knowledge will influence your values and conduct – and, being ignorant, you won't even recognize its influence.

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THIS IS THE REASON FOR SURPRISING STATEMENTS LIKE THIS ONE:

And that servant who knew his master's will and didn't prepare himself or do it will be severely beaten. But the one who **did not know** and did what deserved punishment will receive a light beating.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected.

Luke 12:47-48 (CSB)

- The one servant** was given a responsibility, and knew the requirements.
- The other servant** was given a responsibility, was ignorant of the requirements, and didn't put forth the needed effort to find out what they were. **SUCH IGNORANCE IS SIN**, and will result in punishment.

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★ **Our ignorance in spiritual issues: ★**
It's a matter of CHOICE. Therefore, it is SIN.

... **people, who suppress the truth** by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, **they became fools** ...

Romans 1:18b-22a (NIV)

As a human race, we made this choice.
As individuals, we reaffirm this choice.

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★ About the sin of ignorance... ★

① ⇒ It is a characteristic of an unsaved person.

- Ignorance, caused by hardened hearts; with *many evil results*.

[Don't live like the unsaved] ... in *the futility of their thinking*. They are *darkened* in their understanding, being *alienated* from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them due to the *hardness* of their hearts. Because they are *callous*, they have given themselves over to *indecent* for the practice of every kind of *impurity with greediness*.

Ephesians 4:17b-19 (NET)

[Ignorance and its results are *not an option* for God's people.]

Like obedient children, do not comply with the evil urges you used to follow in your **ignorance**, but, like the Holy One who called you, *become holy yourselves in all of your conduct*, ...

1 Peter 1:14-15 (NET)

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② ⇒ Examples of the evil consequences of ignorance.

✓ **IGNORANCE CAN KEEP PEOPLE FROM SALVATION.**

- Not recognizing the purpose for God's kindness to us.
Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, **not knowing** that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4 (ESV)

- Not recognizing the true nature of God's righteousness.
Since they are **ignorant** of the righteousness of God and attempted to establish their own righteousness, they have not submitted to God's righteousness.

Romans 10:3 (CSB)

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✓ **IT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER TYPES OF DISTORTED FAITH.**

- This ignorance is associated with *unbelief* (not accepting the truth), and being *deceived* (believing what is false).

... I acted **ignorantly** in my *unbelief*. = PAUL, BEFORE SALVATION.

1 Timothy 1:13b (GW)

... people who are **ignorant** and easily *deceived*...

Hebrews 5:2b (GW)

✓ **IGNORANCE MULTIPLIES, ENSNARES, AND MAKES BLIND.**

- Not only can it result in sin, but it can lead to *further* ignorance that results in *further* sin. **ALL SUCH IGNORANCE IS SIN.**
- An ignorant person cannot comprehend his ignorance, until he is exposed to knowledge!*

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✓ **IGNORANCE TENDS TO RESULT IN SINFUL CONDUCT.**

- This is why the Jews killed Jesus (and fulfilled O.T. prophecy).

The people of Jerusalem and their rulers **did not recognize** Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.

Acts 13:27 (NIV)

"And now, brothers, I know that like your rulers you **didn't know** what you were doing."

Acts 3:17 (GW)

- This is why Paul did so much evil against Jesus (and the church).

In the past I cursed him, persecuted him, and acted arrogantly toward him. However, I was treated with mercy because I acted **ignorantly** in my unbelief.

1 Timothy 1:13 (GW)

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- This is why the Gentiles went after idols (even when they still had a vague, distorted awareness of the true God).

"... we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

"God overlooked people's **ignorance** about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him."

Acts 17:29b-30 (NLT)

"And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an **Unknown** God.' This God, whom you worship **without knowing**, is the one I'm telling you about."

Acts 17:23b (NLT)

- This is why false teachers speak their lies (and might not even know that their words are lies).

But these people blaspheme in matters they **do not understand**.

2 Peter 2:12a (NIV)

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★ Ignorance and God's people. ★

① ⇒ Choosing to remain ignorant is *not an option*.

✓ **IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER.**

- The need to *grow* in knowledge:** We can expect a "newborn" to be ignorant of certain things. But a refusal to learn is sin.
- If it's *willful* ignorance:** *Willful* ignorance is sin and can result in further sin, since it will influence values and conduct.
- Ongoing ignorance:** If this happens, there may be good reasons to question whether or not the person even knows God.

Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are **ignorant** of God—I say this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:34 (NIV)

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✓ OUR OBLIGATION.

- **What we must do:** Scripture instructs us to learn and to obey the truth. To disobey this command is sin. Such a choice is not an option for anybody... much less for God's people!
- **N.T. examples:** In Scripture, we see what the early church was told to not be ignorant of. These issues effected their values and conduct, and can also effect ours.
- **Our Need:** We need to know what they needed to know back then; but other issues may also have special relevance to our situation.
- **Focus on all Scripture:** When we choose to ignore Scripture, it can ultimately result in sin and error. (We can't ignore issues that have no link to the command "Don't be ignorant.")

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② ⇨ Examples of things to NOT be ignorant of.

✓ SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

- Satan's scheming. (Context: forgiveness and restored fellowship for those who have repented.)

I don't want Satan to outwit us. After all, we are not **ignorant** about Satan's scheming.
2 Corinthians 2:11 (GW)

- Learn from Israel's example: Sin has consequences.

For I do not want you to be **ignorant** of the fact... that our ancestors were [delivered from Egypt – v. 1b-4]. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

1 Corinthians 10:1a, 5-6 (NIV)

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✓ ISSUES RELATED TO SALVATION AND OUR UNION WITH CHRIST.

- Our union with Christ in his death and resurrection makes sinning not an option for us to choose.

How can we who died to sin still live in it? Or are you **unaware** that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:2-4 (CSB)

- Our union with Christ changes our relationship to the Law. (In sin, the law condemns; in Christ, it guides.)

... **don't you know** that the law applies only while a person is living? You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

Romans 7:1b, 4 (NLT)

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✓ OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO SALVATION.

- The hardening of the Jewish nation is only temporary. (Once the full number of Gentiles are saved, then Israel will turn back to God.)

I don't want you to be **ignorant** of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you will not be conceited: A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Romans 11:25 (CSB)

- Spiritual gifts are to be used as expressions of love for other people. With regard to spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be **uninformed**.

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NET); see chapters 12-14.

- Our future resurrection and how it should affect us now.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be **uninformed** about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NIV); more about this through 5:11.

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✓ DETAILS IN THE LIVES OF THE APOSTLES THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM.

- The apostles didn't understand Jesus' talk about his death and resurrection. [LEARN: It's easy to not understand clearly-spoken statements, when they go against what we want to hear!]

The disciples **didn't understand** what he meant and were afraid to ask him.

Mark 9:32 (GW); see also v. 31; Luke 9:44-45.

- A desire to visit. [LEARN: Always desire to build-up others.]

I do not want you to be **unaware**... that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now)...

Romans 1:13 (NIV); goal = people's salvation and mutual encouragement – v. 12-15.

- Paul's sufferings. [LEARN: God's use of suffering (which may include deliverance through the prayers of others).]

Brothers and sisters, we don't want you to be **ignorant** about the suffering we experienced in the province of Asia.

2 Corinthians 1:8a (GW); see v. 8-11.

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★ Responding to Ignorance ★

✓ THE IGNORANCE OF OTHERS WHO OPPOSE YOU.

(Opposition because you are following Jesus.)

- Godly conduct can have a positive effect on the situation.

For God wants you to silence the **ignorance** of foolish people by doing good.

1 Peter 2:15 (NET)

(Those who oppose you and know what they are doing may continue to oppose. But it may stop those who are doing it in ignorance.)

✓ YOUR OWN IGNORANCE.

- Realize that it can be a sin.... And deal with it.

... the sins the people had committed in **ignorance**.

Hebrews 9:7b (CSB)

HOW? →

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Your mission: **OPPOSE IGNORANCE BY FINDING OUT WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS!**

But **grow** in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18a (NET)

● AND ●

⇒ **PURSUE THE LIGHT!** ⇐

Scripture often describes God's truth as "**light**," and the world's ignorance, unbelief and deception as "**darkness**."

In [Jesus] was life, and that life was the **light** of all mankind.
The **light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** has not overcome it.
John 1:4-5 (NIV)

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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