

# Ignorance is not Bliss

“...this I say therefore...that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk...being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them...” - Ephesians 4:17-18

## 1. A failure to study

- a. Bible study is not just reading (though that is a good start). Belief and understanding are required.
  - i. Philip asked the Eunuch if he understood what he was reading. (Acts 8:27-30)
  - ii. “Ears to hear” requires understanding. Faith cometh by the word of God. (Mk 4:8-9, Rm 10:17)
  - iii. Nehemiah gave to the people the sense of the law. (Neh 8:8)
- b. In this dispensation, to combat error and to understand God’s will is to study. (2 Tim 2:15)
  - i. Study to shew thyself approved unto God.
  - ii. Study to be a faithful workman.
  - iii. Study to not be ashamed.
  - iv. Study to rightly divide the word of truth.
- c. A failure to study God’s word is a failure to be equipped for battle. (Eph 6:13, 17)

## 2. A failure to grow in understanding

- a. When Christians fail to study God’s word, they fail to mature in their understanding as they ought. (1 Cor 14:20)
- b. Paul waits for Silas and Timothy and observes and interacts with those in Athens. (Acts 17:14-15)
  - i. Ignorance breeds **idolatry**. (Acts 17:16)
  - ii. Ignorance breeds **vanity, words to no profit**. (Acts 17:17-21, 2 Tim 2:14, 2 Tim 3:17)
  - iii. Ignorance breeds **superstition**. (Acts 17:22)  
**Superstition** “Belief in the direct agency of superior powers in certain extraordinary or singular events, or in omens and prognostics.” (Webster’s 1828)
  - iv. Ignorance breeds **devotion and worship to unknown gods**.
- c. The knowledge and understanding of God is what man loves to reject. (Rom 1:28, 3:11)
- d. Without knowledge and understanding we become idolaters, slaves to superstition, and zealous of error. (Rom 10:2, 2 Tim 2:16-18)
- e. The unwise do not know God’s will, therefore cannot do it. (Rom 10:3, Eph 5:17, )
- f. To have you not know God’s will, is the devil’s will. (2 Cor 11:15, 2 Tim 2:24-26)
- g. The cure is knowledge and understanding of the true God and His will. (Eph 3:14-19)