

Why Ignorance of the Bible Is Not An Excuse

In Romans 10:1-3 Paul was talking about people raised in Judaism and who had not left that religion in order to accept the gospel. Many of those people probably were good, sincere people. But they were practicing a religion which God no longer approved. The text says: *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Those Jewish worshippers were zealously religious but religiously ignorant. As a result, they were following their own system of righteousness instead of God's. Their ignorance was not an excuse, and their sincere zeal could not make them to be approved by God.

In Acts 17, Paul was talking to men who sincerely worshipped idols. He said: *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead (17:30-31).* There was a time in which God overlooked man's religious ignorance; now that the gospel has come, all men are required to submit themselves to it. Ignorance no longer is an excuse. To be accepted by God, the people in both examples had to learn the Truth and change their religions.

If we could plead ignorance and escape the Judgment, the easiest way to assure heaven to all men would be to keep every person as ignorant as possible. If we are ignorant of God's Word, we have a free pass into heaven. But if such ignorance could save us, why did Jesus come to reveal His gospel; why did He command us to teach it to all men? It is because the only way anyone will be saved is through understanding and obeying Christ's gospel. Each of us personally is responsible. If we remain ignorant through prejudice or indifference to the truth, we will bring God's judgment upon ourselves.

We must not depend on what popes, priests, reverends, or family tell us; we must know for ourselves what is the Truth.

La Ignorancia de la Biblia No Es Una Excusa

En **Romanos 10:1-4** Pablo hablaba de personas criadas en el judaísmo y que no habían dejado esa religión para aceptar el evangelio. Muchas de esas personas probablemente eran personas buenas y sinceras. Pero practicaban una religión que Dios ya no aceptaba. El texto dice:

Hermanos, el deseo de mi corazón y mi oración a Dios por ellos es para su salvación. Porque yo testifico a su favor de que tienen celo de Dios, pero no conforme a un pleno conocimiento. Pues desconociendo la justicia de Dios y procurando establecer la suya propia, no se sometieron a la justicia de Dios. Porque Cristo es el fin de la ley para justicia a todo aquel que cree.

Esos adoradores judíos eran celosamente religiosos, pero religiosamente ignorantes. Como resultado, estaban siguiendo su propio sistema de justicia en lugar de la de Dios. Su ignorancia no era una excusa, y su celo sincero no podía hacer que fueran aprobados por Dios.

En **Hechos 17**, Pablo hablaba con hombres que sinceramente adoraban ídolos. Él dijo: *Por tanto, habiendo pasado por alto los tiempos de ignorancia, Dios declara ahora a todos los hombres, en todas partes, que se arrepientan, porque Él ha establecido un día en el cual juzgará al mundo en justicia, por medio de un Hombre a quien ha designado, habiendo presentado pruebas a todos los hombres al resucitarle de entre los muertos (17:30-31).* Hubo un tiempo en que Dios pasó por alto la ignorancia religiosa del hombre; ahora que ha llegado el evangelio, todos los hombres deben someterse a él. **La ignorancia ya no es excusa.** Para ser aceptados por Dios, **las personas en ambos ejemplos tuvieron que aprender la Verdad y cambiar sus religiones.**

Si pudiéramos alegar ignorancia y escapar del Juicio, la forma más fácil de asegurar a todos los hombres el cielo, sería mantener a cada persona tan ignorante como sea posible. Si somos ignorantes de la Palabra de Dios, tendríamos un pase libre al cielo. Si tal ignorancia pudiera salvarnos, ¿por qué Jesús vino a revelar Su evangelio; por qué nos mandó que lo enseñáramos a todos los hombres? **Es porque la única forma en que alguien se salvará es a través de entender y obedecer el evangelio de Cristo.** Cada uno de nosotros personalmente es responsable. Si permanecemos ignorantes por prejuicio o indiferencia a la verdad, traeremos el juicio de Dios sobre nosotros. No debemos depender de lo que nos digan pápas, sacerdotes, reverendos o familiares; debemos saber por nosotros mismos cuál es la Verdad.