



The Good News

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Ignorance, Knowledge, and Wisdom

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If we spend any appreciable time studying the Word of God, we will find these three terms in abundance. As a result, we recognize that we need to have a very thorough and working understanding of the meaning and importance of the words He has given us.

The first time the term “knowledge” is used in the bible is in Genesis when God speaks of the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. The Lord did not wish for man to have this knowledge—in fact, to remain ignorant of it—and thus commanded Adam and Eve to not eat of the tree. Note that in this case, God preferred man to remain ignorant of this knowledge so that they would remain innocent; it’s important to point this out because of the fact that in later books and chapters, the Lord makes it known to us that we are to be as innocent as children in the ways of the world; we are to be *ignorant* of them (i.e. not having experienced the ways of the world). Not all ignorance is bad, then, and in some cases is desired in us by God.

However, there is a type of ignorance that God flatly and fully condemns: the ignorance of His will. After all, how else is man supposed to learn what God wills of him? Any individual that is compelled to learn of a thing will go through the process of educating themselves on that thing. This is the acquisition of knowledge; gaining knowledge will banish the darkness and blindness of ignorance. Knowledge of God’s Word is absolutely vital for salvation—one can no more be saved without the knowledge of God’s will than one can live on this earth without breathing. We who study God’s Word and live our lives according to His will have been given the task of spreading the gospel to all who may be willing to receive it; that’s what we have been called to do. As such, it must be

understood how very important the Word of God must be to each and every one of us.

Knowledge alone, however, is not enough for salvation. In fact, it is the action (or lack thereof) that is taken as a *result* of that knowledge that determines how God sees us. A soul who hears the Word and turns away from the teachings to pursue their own ambitions is no more saved than one who is entirely ignorant of the Word itself. Why?

The answer, simply put, is what separates us from all other living beings: we have the ability—and when fed the knowledge of God, the responsibility—to exercise *wisdom*. Animals are not wise, not in the sense that God defines wisdom; they can and do become experienced but experience alone is not wisdom. Godly wisdom is the *proper use of knowledge*. We can be incredibly intelligent people, we can possess knowledge of great depth and power; but when we are unwise (i.e. we do not apply God’s Word) with that intelligence and knowledge, we not only waste our time but also the opportunity to spread God’s word in a very powerful manner: we become counterproductive to the work of a Christian. We become that which God has condemned in His Word! Wisdom—taking the knowledge of God and applying that knowledge through our *faith*—is desirable and pleasing to God because it furthers His will. For the Christian, there truly is nothing else. Obtaining and using the knowledge of God wisely is the most productive and truly profitable way to live our lives here on earth.