

Limiting God by Ignorance of the Word

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No amount of other effort will replace knowledge of God's word: 2Pe 3:16 "As also in all [his] (*Paul's*) epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction (*eternal and in this life*)."
2Ti 3:16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."
Hos 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."
Jer 6:19 "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."
Lev 5:17 "If anyone sins and does any of the things the Lord has forbidden, though he was not aware of it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity."
AMP Isa 5:13 "Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. 14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."
Prov 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
Mat 22:29 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."
Mar 12:24 "And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?"
2 Tim 3:6 "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Hosea 4:6 is rather direct. Because we are ignorant of God's laws, the Bible, our individual lives and that of our society are destroyed, we are rejected as priests so our prayers are ineffective and our children are forsaken. All this because we do not make the word of God a priority in our lives. The Bible is there, but we do not even academically learn it, but even more so we do not pray Psalm 119 regularly asking God to teach us His word.

And the worst of all we do not engage Holy Spirit so that we get light from God that man or devils cannot give: Heb 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." When these words were written, the New Testament was not yet codified and this is referring to the Old Testament, the same one those who crucified Jesus memorized. While academic study is a start, it is light from God Himself that produces this result in us.

To be a disciple means to be under disciplines, duties, doing those things that are right on a regular basis. Learning and knowing God in the scriptures is a prime requirement: John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
John 15:7 "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask *as due by covenant promise* what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."
1 John 2:14 "I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked

one.” 1 John 3:23 “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and agape-love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”

So there are really two issues here, one is ignorance of the word of God and second wrong application so that we major in the facts and text and not in God Himself as revealed in the word. Both limit what God can do through men as God has made His word to be above or greater than His name: Ps 138:2 “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

Jesus said it this way to the religious leaders of His day: John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal zoe-life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have zoe-life. 41 I receive not honour from men. 42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. 43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. 44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”

To receive honor from God you must deal with Him on a personal level. 1 Sam 2:30 “Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.” Matt 23:2 “Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.” In essence, if your religion does not get the devil off of people like Jesus did, you have missed God.

2 Peter 3:13 “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, agape-beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is soteria-salvation; even as our agape-beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, agape-beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

Just as discussed in Heb 4, rightly dividing the word of truth leads men to purge themselves of every evil work. 2 Tim 2:14 “Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”

The early church writings tell us that Jewish boys memorized the Torah, the first five books of our Bible, by the age of 12-14, and then were expected to have the rest of the Old Testament memorized

by the age of 30. New Gentile Christians spent the first 3-7 years doing the same. So the assumption of the New Testament is that the letters were written to those who had memorized the first 5 books of the Old Testament and had pretty well memorized or were very familiar with all the rest. Rightly dividing the word starts with that background.

Jesus told the leaders: John 5:19 “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”

Jesus came as a man and grew as a man would have to grow. So where did He see the Father raise the dead? Did He have a special revelation like John had in the Book of the Revelation? We are not told that in the scriptures. What we are told is that Jesus studied the scriptures and saw a different God than the teachers of His day. When others saw a God who could be cruel and demanded strict obedience or you were destroyed, as Israel’s history and the prophets had foretold, Jesus saw that Father God raised the dead and is the God of agape-love. Because Jesus saw this, He could do the same. Same scriptures, but He got a vastly different understanding. That is why praying Psalm 119 for one is so critical. And Jesus said to those who had the Old Testament memorized, Mark 12:24 “And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God ?”

It seems that one way you get to know God is to trust Him in what really matters to you and let Him answer your prayer. A great Psalm on trusting the Lord is Psalm 37. The key is continually trusting in God so that His light can give you light. Ps 4:6 “There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.” Ps 36:9 “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.” Ps 43:3 “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.” Ps 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

And concerning the Messiah, Isa 49:6 “And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.”

So a start in properly knowing God is to read the Gospels as if Jesus is not only showing you how Father God really is, but as you grow in knowledge of Him, how you will really walk. John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Phil 2:12 “Wherefore, my agape-beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own soteria-salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of zoe-life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

So whatever actions that will be destroyed on the Day of Judgment will be first wasted efforts and second lost opportunities to build the Kingdom of God on earth. Instead we are to know the truth so that we can help those who are in error, and this always starts with the word of God: James 5:19 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

God has done all these wonderful things in Jesus for us, but if we never learn of them and bring them to earth, the judgment is that our evil works will be destroyed as so much wood, hay and stubble (1 Cor 3), and we will not have performed the works we were created for and thus limited God in the process. And then the sad words will apply:

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”

Isa 27:11 “When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have racham-mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.”

Jer 5:3 “O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.”

Jer 5:21 “Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:”

Hos 4:1 “Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor chesed-mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.”

Hos 6:6 For I desired chesed-mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. 7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.”

Matt 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

2 Cor 4:33 “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

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