

The Example of the Old Testament Helps Us Live Today

In our previous session Paul wrote to the church in Corinth that he had made himself ***all things to all men*** (9:22), and he lived his life in that manner ***that I might gain some***. Paul was not saying that he compromised his faith and acted in a sinful way, but that he wanted to live his life in such a way that he could communicate the gospel clearly to any person in any walk of life.

He described the Christian life as a race (9:24), in that we strive to receive and ***incorruptible crown***. He doesn't tell us what that crown is, but it could be an indication of all those with whom we share Christ and believe; they are our incorruptible crown. In order to gain that crown, Paul said he ***keeps his body into subjection***, that is, he preached the gospel in such a way that he was genuine, otherwise he might be a castaway or brushed off, not believed by his hearers.

In chapter 10 he gives an example of those who didn't run the race well, who didn't bring their lives into subjection. He reaches back to Moses and the Exodus.

Chapter 10: 1-2

Verse 1 —

Moreover...I would not that ye should be ignorant. Ignorance is a lack of knowledge and understanding. Biblical ignorance is often a problem among Christians. It is ignorance of the truth of God's word is what leads us into following false teachings.

Ignorance of the Bible is why a person's faith does not grow. It is why many Christians remain plagued with guilt, shame, and self-doubt. Faith will only grow through a knowledge of the Word of God ([Romans 10:17](#)).

The book of [Proverbs 4:7](#) tells us "*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*" Notice we are instructed to **get** wisdom. It is written as an imperative. Wisdom is something any individual can gain no matter what his or her education, economic standing, or cultural group. Wisdom comes to anyone through knowledge of the Word of God.

The role of the pastor/teacher is to edify the body of Christ That means to build up—to help bring people out of ignorance and into the knowledge of God's Word ([Ephesians 4:12](#)).

There is no command or ordinance for a believer to have to attend church or Bible study, but one only does harm to himself by neglecting these things.

Coming out of ignorance, into a Christian life of knowledge and truth, happens when we know the entire Bible. Paul reminds the Corinthians of the lessons we can learn

from a previous dispensation. He takes his readers back to the Exodus.

Paul calls people into knowledge, or a lack of ignorance nine times in his letters using the same word, **ἀγνοέω** | *agnoeo*. We get our work *agnostic* from this word. An agnostic is a skeptic, or doubter, or one who simply is an unbeliever.

Paul's use of the word *agnoeo*

Romans 1:13; Romans 2:4; Romans 6:3; Romans 7:1; Romans 10:3; Romans 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 1 Corinthians 12:1; 2 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

Paul calls for his readers to mastery of the word of God so that, like him, our message will be heard by others and they will not cast us away as frauds.

If one has no knowledge of the gospel, if he slacks off on spiritual convictions from the word and just beats the air ([1 Corinthians 9:26](#)), if he lets his physical cravings dominate his body ([1 Corinthians 9:27](#)), he makes himself unqualified, or disqualified.

Therefore Paul gives his readers an example from those he calls **our fathers**. Here is another indication that Paul is speaking to a largely Jewish church since the **fathers** he is referring to are Moses and the Israelites who had come out of the exodus from Egypt

Paul takes the Corinthian readers back to Pentateuch and describes what ignorance of God's word will lead us into.

Verses 1,2—

Under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.

Baptized unto Moses in the cloud and the sea

Exodus 13:17 - 14:31