

IGNORANCE, IGNORANT, IGNORANTLY, UNKNOWINGLY, UNWITTINGLY

Sins committed in **ignorance** are still sinful and anger God. (The Lord was angry with Abimelech for taking Sarah, even though the king didn't know she was Abraham's wife.)

- **Genesis 20:2-3:** "And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife."

Abimelech repaid Abraham for taking Sarah away from him, even though he had acted in **ignorance** and didn't intend to take away a man's wife.

- **Genesis 20:14:** "And Abimelech took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife."

Abimelech understood that if one of the Philistines had taken Rebekah and had sex with her, that would have been a terrible sin (even though they would have done it in **ignorance**, not realizing she was Isaac's wife).

- **Genesis 26:10:** "And Abimelech said, What is this thou hast done unto us? one of the people might lightly have lien with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us."

Jacob took advantage of Laban's **ignorance** when it came to

breeding sheep. (The deal that he made with Laban was heavily in his favor, since Jacob knew how to breed the type of animals that would go to him and not to Laban.)

- **Genesis 30:32,34:** "I will pass through all thy flock to day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and of such shall be my hire. ... And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word."

God holds us accountable for *all* of our sins, including sins committed in **ignorance**.

- **Leviticus 4:2:** "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them:"

Under the Mosaic Law, if a priest sinned in **ignorance** he had to atone for his sin by bringing a sin offering to the Lord.

- **Leviticus 4:2-3:** "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them: If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering."

There may be times when an entire nation sins in **ignorance**. (When that happens God still holds the nation accountable.)

- **Leviticus 4:13:** "And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty;"

Under the Mosaic Law, if the entire nation sinned in **ignorance** they had to atone for their sin by bringing a sin offering to the Lord.

- **Leviticus 4:13-14:** "And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty; When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation."

There may be times when a ruler sins in **ignorance**. (When that happens God still holds the ruler accountable.)

- **Leviticus 4:22:** "When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty;"

Under the Mosaic Law, if a ruler sinned in **ignorance** he had to atone for his sin by bringing a sin offering to the Lord.

- **Leviticus 4:22-24:** "When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the

commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty; Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish: And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD: it is a sin offering."

There may be times when a common person sins through **ignorance**. (When that happens God still holds him accountable.)

- **Leviticus 4:27:** "And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty;"

Under the Mosaic Law, if a common person sinned in **ignorance** he had to atone for his sin by bringing a sin offering to the Lord.

- **Leviticus 4:27-29:** "And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned. And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering."

Under the Mosaic Law, when a person realized he had **unknowingly** violated the regulations around being unclean,

he had to make atonement for what he did.

- **Leviticus 5:3:** "Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty."
- **Leviticus 5:4:** "Or if a soul swear, pronouncing with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these."

God requires people to confess the sins they committed in **ignorance**, once they realized they sinned.

- **Leviticus 5:5:** "And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing:"

Those who make a promise without realizing it and don't keep it are still sinning. God holds them responsible and requires them to make atonement, even though it was done in **ignorance**.

- **Leviticus 5:4-5:** "Or if a soul swear, pronouncing with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these. And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing:"

Under the Mosaic Law, in order for a person to make

atonement for a sin committed in **ignorance** they had to offer a sacrifice.

- **Leviticus 5:6:** "And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his sin."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a person sinned in **ignorance** regarding the holy things of the Lord they had to offer a trespass offering.

- **Leviticus 5:15:** "If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a person sinned in **ignorance** regarding the holy things of the Lord, he would be forgiven after he paid for the damage he did to the holy thing, and after the priest offered the ram to make atonement for him.

- **Leviticus 5:16:** "And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him."

Sins committed in **ignorance** are still sins. The person who sinned in ignorance is still guilty in God's sight.

- **Leviticus 5:17:** "And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity."

Under the Mosaic Law, people had to offer sacrifices to make atonement for sins they committed out of **ignorance**.

- **Leviticus 5:18-19:** "And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred and wist it not, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering: he hath certainly trespassed against the LORD."

Under the Mosaic Law, if the nation of Israel sinned in **ignorance** they had to offer a burnt offering, a meat (flour) offering, a drink offering, and a sin offering. (God still held them accountable, even though it was done in ignorance.)

- **Numbers 15:24:** "Then it shall be, if ought be committed by ignorance without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one young bullock for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour unto the LORD, with his meat offering, and his drink offering, according to the manner, and one kid of the goats for a sin offering."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a person sinned in **ignorance** then he had to offer a sin offering. (God still held him responsible and required him to make atonement for his sin, even though it was done out of ignorance.)

- **Numbers 15:27:** "And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering."
- **Numbers 15:28:** "And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him."

Under the Mosaic Law, the commands regarding sins committed in **ignorance** were the same for both Israelites and foreigners.

- **Numbers 15:29:** "Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them."

Under the Mosaic Law, those who committed sins that *weren't* done in **ignorance** were to be cut off from the nation. (There was no sacrifice that could atone for that.)

- **Numbers 15:30-31:** "But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him."

Moses said that the previous generation of Israelites (who refused to enter Canaan) were told God's commandments. They weren't **ignorant** of them (but they still refused to obey

them).

- **Deuteronomy 1:18:** "And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do."

Under the Mosaic Law, if one person killed someone else it was only an accidental death if it was done out of **ignorance** (and if he didn't hate the person who was killed).

- **Deuteronomy 19:4:** "And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbour ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past,"

Since the children of the Israelites were **ignorant**, they needed to be taught the law so that they might fear God. (Those children hadn't been born yet when God spoke to Israel at mount Horeb.)

- **Deuteronomy 31:13:** "And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

Eli wasn't **ignorant** about the wicked things that his sons Hophni and Phinehas were doing. However, he did nothing to hold them accountable or protect the Israelites from them (which is why God was so angry with him).

- **1 Samuel 2:23:** "And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people."

God held Jonathan responsible for breaking Saul's foolish

commandment to not eat any food, even though Jonathan acted out of **ignorance** and had no way of knowing in advance that he was doing something wrong.

- **1 Samuel 14:38, 42:** "And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day. ... And Saul said, Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken."

In the days of Nehemiah, the leadership of Israel was **ignorant** about the law of Moses. (It seems they didn't realize God had commanded them to celebrate the feast of tabernacles, or that God had forbidden the Ammonites and Moabites from entering the temple.)

- **Nehemiah 8:13-14:** "And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law. And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:"
- **Nehemiah 13:1:** "On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever;"

After God spoke to Job, he realized he lacked wisdom and had spoken in **ignorance**.

- **Job 42:3:** "Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not."

It's not acceptable to sin in **ignorance**. We must strive to be free of all sin, including sins we're unaware of.

- **Psalm 19:12:** "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."

It's difficult for us to tell when we're sinning in **ignorance**.

- **Psalm 19:12:** "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."

It's **ignorant** to envy the wicked (whom God will one day destroy).

- **Psalm 73:12-13, 22:** "Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. ... So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee."

Even when we're **ignorant**, God is with us.

- **Psalm 73:22-23:** "So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand."

Christians don't have the option of remaining **ignorant**. We must pursue wisdom and understanding. (Ignorance is a bad thing, not a good thing.)

- **Proverbs 4:5:** "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth."

- **Proverbs 5:1-2:** "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge."
- **Proverbs 7:4:** "Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:"
- **Proverbs 8:14:** "Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength."

We're not allowed to be **ignorant** of what's going on around us. (In other words, ignorance isn't a defense.)

- **Proverbs 24:12:** "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

People may think that things are new, but that's because of their **ignorance** of history.

- **Ecclesiastes 1:10:** "Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us."

God said that the watchmen of Israel were **ignorant**.

- **Isaiah 56:10:** "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber."

In the millennium, the temple will need to be cleansed when people sin out of **ignorance**.

- **Ezekiel 45:20:** "And so thou shalt do the seventh day of the month for every one that erreth, and for him that is simple: so shall ye reconcile the house."

Belshazzar had no excuse for his pride. He couldn't claim **ignorance**.

- **Daniel 5:22:** "And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;"

The tribe of Ephraim didn't realize that strangers had devoured their strength. They were **ignorant** about what was going on. (Sometimes nations don't realize that they are suffering from God's judgment upon them.)

- **Hosea 7:8-9:** "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not."

When the religious leaders put Jesus to death, they knew who He was and where He came from. They didn't do it out of **ignorance** (unlike the Romans, who had no idea what was going on). In the parable that Jesus taught shortly before He was crucified, the reason people killed the heir was because they knew he was the heir. (That being said, they may have been ignorant of the terrible consequences.)

- **Matthew 21:38:** "But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance."
- **Luke 20:14:** "But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir:

come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours."

The Sadducees tried to attack the doctrine of the resurrection (which the Old Testament clearly taught) with a ridiculous question that was based on **ignorance** of the law. (The Mosaic Law taught that marriage ends at death. That's why widows are allowed to remarry.)

- **Matthew 22:28-29:** "Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."
- **Luke 20:33:** "Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife."

When two false witnesses testified that Jesus had said He could destroy the temple and build it in three days (which was a reference to His death and resurrection), He was actually in the process of fulfilling those words. The false witnesses **unknowingly** quoted what was actually happening at that moment.

- **Matthew 26:61:** "And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days."

The arguments the Pharisees had against Jesus were wrong, and revealed their **ignorance** of Jesus and the Scriptures. (First of all, the prophet Jonah was from Galilee. Second, Jesus *wasn't* from Galilee. They were wrong on both counts.)

- **John 7:52:** "They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."

Jesus said the reason Mary anointed His feet with ointment was because He was about to be buried. However, it's unlikely Mary realized this, which means she did it **unknowingly**. Yet Jesus still gave her credit for it.

- **John 12:7:** "Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this."

Peter said the Jews condemned Jesus and demanded Barabbas through **ignorance**.

- **Acts 3:14-15, 17:** "But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. ... And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers."

Peter and John were described as **ignorant** and unlearned.

- **Acts 4:13:** "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

The people in Athens worshiped God in **ignorance** (along with their other idols).

- **Acts 17:23:** "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

There was one dispensation before the resurrection and another one afterward. In the previous dispensation God accepted a measure of **ignorance**, but that's no longer the case.

- **Acts 17:30:** "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

The wicked aren't **ignorant** of God. He's showed them the truth.

- **Romans 1:18-19:** "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."

The wicked aren't **ignorant** of God. Instead they've rejected Him and removed Him from their knowledge.

- **Romans 1:28:** "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"

The wicked aren't **ignorant** of God's judgment (in spite of what they may claim).

- **Romans 1:32:** "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

The Jews are **ignorant** of the righteousness that comes from God. They know nothing of the righteousness that comes by faith.

- **Romans 10:1, 3:** "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ... For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

Paul didn't want Christians to be **ignorant** because that leads to people being conceited and wise in their own eyes.

- **Romans 11:25:** "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

God doesn't want us to be **ignorant** of the time we're living in.

- **Romans 13:11:** "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

It's not good to be **ignorant** of what the Old Testament teaches. Its teachings are important (and serve as examples).

- **1 Corinthians 10:1:** "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;"

It's not good for churches to be **ignorant** about spiritual gifts.

- **1 Corinthians 12:1:** "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant."

Christians should be **ignorant** when it comes to malice. That's something we must not pursue.

- **1 Corinthians 14:20:** "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

Christians must not be **ignorant** when it comes to wisdom or understanding.

- **1 Corinthians 14:20:** "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

If someone has chosen to be **ignorant** and won't listen then that person isn't our responsibility. We should leave him alone and let him remain ignorant.

- **1 Corinthians 14:38:** "But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."

We must not remain **ignorant** of how the devil works. (Instead we must study the Scriptures so we can stand against him.)

- **2 Corinthians 2:11:** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

It's God's will for Christians to one day have perfect and true knowledge of the faith. (This means we won't always be **ignorant**.)

- **Ephesians 4:13:** "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

Those whoa'e not saved are **ignorant**.

- **Ephesians 4:17-18:** "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

Being foolish and **ignorant** isn't an option for Christians. (Instead we must pursue wisdom and understanding.)

- **Ephesians 5:15:** "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,"
- **Ephesians 5:17:** "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Paul prayed that the love of the church would be rooted in knowledge and judgment (not in **ignorance** or sin).

- **Philippians 1:9:** "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;"

It's bad to be **ignorant**. Christians should seek wisdom and understanding.

- **Colossians 2:2-3:** "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
- **Colossians 3:16:** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Paul didn't want the Thessalonian church to be **ignorant** of the doctrines of the resurrection and the return of Jesus.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14:** "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

The reason God showed mercy to Paul was because he persecuted the church **ignorantly**, out of unbelief.

- **1 Timothy 1:13:** "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

Christians don't have to answer all questions. **Ignorant** and foolish questions only lead to fights.

- **2 Timothy 2:23:** "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes."

Part of the job of the high priest was having compassion on those who were **ignorant**.

- **Hebrews 5:1-2:** "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity."

Those who are **ignorant** need compassion.

- **Hebrews 5:2:** "Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity."

Since the recipients of the book of Hebrews didn't even know the basics of the faith, the author wasn't able to teach everything he wanted. Its recipients were too **ignorant** to receive them.

- **Hebrews 5:11-12:** "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

The author of the book of Hebrews compares **ignorant**

Christians to babies who can only drink milk and are unable to eat solid food. (In other words, they are very immature.)

- **Hebrews 5:12:** "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

Before we were saved, we were **ignorant**. Now that we're saved we're no longer ignorant and must not act like we are.

- **1 Peter 1:14-15:** "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"

The way to silence the **ignorance** of foolish men is for Christians to lead holy lives. That righteous testimony will silence those who are foolish and ignorant.

- **1 Peter 2:15:** "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:"

Christians don't have the option of being **ignorant**. God commands us to diligently pursue knowledge.

- **2 Peter 1:5:** "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

Peter expected the recipients of his second letter to already know the things he was talking about, and not be **ignorant** of the truth.

- **2 Peter 1:12:** "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

Scoffers are willingly **ignorant** of the fact that God created this universe and spoke it into existence.

- **2 Peter 3:5:** "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:"

Scoffers are willingly **ignorant** of the fact that God destroyed the entire world in the great Flood. (This is because they're corrupt and controlled by their lusts.)

- **2 Peter 3:3, 5-6:** "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ... For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

Peter didn't want Christians to be **ignorant** when it came to the subject of prophecy and the return of Jesus.

- **2 Peter 3:8, 10:** "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

It's not acceptable for Christians to remain **ignorant**. Instead we should seek to grow in the knowledge of Jesus.

- **2 Peter 3:18:** "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."

Before people take the mark of the beast during the tribulation, an angel will preach the gospel to them, and another angel will warn them of the consequences of taking it. No one will take the mark of the beast **unknowingly** (without being warned first).

- **Revelation 14:9:** "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,"