

"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD!"-1King 22:16

Sins of Ignorance! Part 2

Jesus' Teaching on the Sins of Ignorance

In **Luke 12:47, 48** Jesus makes a distinction in the punishment of the man who sins against his knowledge, and the man who sins in ignorance. The man who sins against his knowledge will be *"beaten with many stripes,"* while the man who sins through ignorance will be beaten with *"few stripes."* It should be observed that the man who sinned through ignorance was still accountable for his sins. He was punished for them; he did receive stripes, though they were few stripes. Thus, ignorance does not excuse a man from the responsibility for his sins. Jesus taught that the man who sinned in ignorance, *"though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and he shall bear his iniquity."*

Sins of Ignorance and the Crucifixion of Christ

Concerning those who crucified Christ, Jesus prayed, *"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"* (**Luke 23:47**). Peter acknowledged in **Acts 3:17** that Jesus was crucified because of ignorance, but in **Acts 2:38** he also commanded them to *"repent and be baptized every one of you."* Jesus prayed that they would be forgiven, and that prayer was answered only as they met the conditions that God gave. Sins of ignorance are forgiven only as the conditions are met.

Sins of Ignorance and the Israelites in Paul's Day

In **Romans 10:1-3** we learn that the Israelites of Paul's day were zealous, but they were ignorant of God's righteousness (the gospel - **Rom. 1:17**). Thus, they set out to establish their own righteousness. There was a sin of ignorance, yet, they were lost and in need of salvation. Yet, Paul went on to teach

that they could be saved if they met all of the conditions that God gave them (**Rom. 10:9, 10**).

Sins of Ignorance and the Works of the Flesh

In **Galatians 5:19-21**, Paul gives a listing of some of the works of the flesh, and he states that *"they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* If you will notice the first of these sins of the flesh, you will see that it is "adultery." There are some people who are members of the body of Christ and yet are engaged in an adulterous relationship (perhaps it is an unscriptural marriage relationship). Sometimes this baptized believer is ignorant of there being anything wrong with his unscriptural marriage relationship, and so, he continues to be united with a woman that he is unscripturally married to, thinking that there is nothing wrong with it (some preachers take the position that baptism will somehow wash away the first marriage of the person involved in a second unscriptural marriage relationship). Does this man have any grounds on which to hope for a home in heaven when this life is over? Will God automatically cover his sin of ignorance with the blood of Christ until he learns better? The Apostle said that it was not possible for such a person to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Ignorance will not change the law of God, and the violation of the law of God will not go unpunished because of ignorance (**Heb. 2:2**). This is true of adultery, of fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, etc. The only way that we can read in the Bible for a man to be forgiven of his sins of ignorance is for him to repent and turn from them, confessing them to the Lord and asking forgiveness of them. *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?"* (**1 Cor. 6:9**).

Sins of Ignorance and 1 John 1

In **1 John 1:5**, John said, *"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."* Whenever a Christian sins through ignorance, is that sin in the light, or is it in darkness? John said that it was in darkness, for there

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